

The **KINGBIRD**



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FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.



The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC.

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Co-Editors – Emanuel Levine and John Farrand, Jr.

Highlights of the Season

Editor – Robert Spahn

Circulation Manager – Constance N. Wilkins

Cover Design – Douglas L. Howland



Otis Waterman

Brambling – Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co.

24 March 1984

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

46. A BRAMBLING IN DUTCHESS COUNTY

MARION VAN WAGNER and ELEANOR PINK

On 13 March 1984, we received a call from Earl Brockway, a retired employee of the New York State Conservation Department who lives at Pleasant Valley in Dutchess County. He reported a bird that he could not identify; it had been visiting his feeder for about two weeks.

We went to his home with Mary Key and Jim Key, Chairman of the "hot line" for the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club. Using the new *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (National Geographic Society, 1983, p. 442), we identified the bird as a male Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) coming into breeding plumage. The head and back were quite spotted or scaly-looking, but with black on the cheek or ear coverts. The rump was white and there were two white wing markings. The tail was deeply notched and the bill was yellow with a black tip.

The Brambling was observed from three windows at a distance of about twelve feet. It seemed nervous and flew off at any movement inside the house. It seemed always to approach the feeder from one direction and depart in the opposite direction. Its visits occurred at intervals of a half-hour to an hour and a half. The bird fed on cracked corn on the ground, which was snow-covered at times.

We took small groups of members of the Waterman Bird Club to Mr. Brockway's house; a total of eleven people saw the Brambling. Mr. Brockway saw the bird for the last time on 27 March 1984.

The Brambling is a fairly common bird in northern Eurasia, and an irregular migrant in the Aleutians. Although it is a casual visitor to southeastern Alaska, several have been reported from various parts of North America during the winter of 1983-1984 (see *American Birds*, Vol. 38, No. 3; May-June, 1984), along with other eastern Eurasian species; more than one person has called the past winter "The Siberian Express."

28 Gleason Blvd., Pleasant Valley, New York 12569
P.O. Box 854, Pleasant Valley, New York 12569

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE

A total of 56 reports representing 38 records of birds for 1983 plus an additional report for 1982 was submitted to the New York State Avian Records Committee through early 1984. Of these records, 26 have been accepted, one is thought to pertain to a bird possibly escaped from captivity, nine have been declined and three are still under review.

Additionally, we have solicited details for several of the species listed as "Hypothetical" in the *Birds of New York State* (Bull, 1974; Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, NY). The NYSARC found details submitted for a record of Golden-crowned Sparrow to be satisfactory, but details for Lewis' Woodpecker (1947-2-A) and Brewer's Sparrow (1947-1-A), though expanded from the brief notices originally published, remain unsatisfactory. After 40 years it is not surprising that the details of these observations have become fuzzy. Some of the observers are now deceased, have moved away or are pursuing other interests. Their insights are lost forever. It is cases such as these that reinforce the point that the most important function of the NYSARC, and any other records committee, is to provide a permanent repository for the details of observations of rarities.

We are pleased to report that we have been less plagued by illegible and difficult to copy reports than in previous years. However, the primary reason for not accepting, and for delay in processing reports, remains insufficient details. Indeed, for some of the records accepted in this and in past years and for which individual reports were submitted by multiple observers, one or more of the individual reports were in themselves unacceptable. Had only these reports been submitted, the NYSARC would have been forced to reject the record. In such cases it was the total evidence that convinced the NYSARC that the record was acceptable. We continue to emphasize the importance for each observer of an extreme rarity to submit an independently prepared report of their observation, and to include as complete a description as possible, even for supposedly "unmistakable" species.

Dr. Robert Andrie has been reappointed for another term as Committee Member. We are equally pleased to report the continuing participation of Tom Davis following his recent illness. After two years of service, Dr. John Confer has requested a leave of absence as Secretary of the Committee to meet his own professional demands. We thank John for his good work and look forward to the time when his obligations will permit renewed service with the NYSARC. The Committee is pleased to accept the offer of Mr. Steve Sibley at the Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University to serve in Dr. Confer's place. Reports to the

NYSARC should be addressed to:

The Secretary, NYSARC
c/o The Laboratory of Ornithology
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14850
attn: Mr. Steve Sibley

As in past years, only contributors of reports are acknowledged in the summary of records below, regardless of the actual number of observers. The term "substantiated" means that physical evidence accompanies the documentation submitted to the NYSARC. In summaries of species' status, we ignore any reports since 1978 which have not been reviewed by this Committee.

1954 ACCEPTED REPORT

✓ **GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*.) 1954-1-A-D.

"Immature" which molted to definitive Alternate plumage, Jones Beach, Nassau Co. 31 Jan to 24 Apr (GC, WS, RG). Several other observers were contacted, who did not have original field notes, distinctly recalled seeing this bird. This record is the basis for its former "hypothetical" status in New York State. The nearest substantiated reports are from Massachusetts and New Jersey.

1982 ACCEPTED REPORT

- ✓ **RAZORBILL** (*Alca torda*). 1982-50-A one in Basic plumage, mouth of Niagara River off Fort Niagara, Niagara Co., 27 Nov (FB). This appears to be the second record from upstate New York, where Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) is more frequent.

1983 ACCEPTED REPORTS

- ✓ **EARED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*). 1983-18-A adult in Alternate plumage Jones Beach, Nassau Co., 4 Aug (ROP). This is an exceptionally early record of a species not normally reviewed by the NYSARC.
- ✓ **NORTHERN GANNET** (*Sula bassanus*). 1983-29-A immature Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 13 Nov (DWC). Several other individuals were reported from the Canadian side of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River about this same time period.
- ✓ **TRICOLORED HERON** (*Egretta tricolor*). 1983-19-A,B immature Crown Point, Essex Co., 15 Aug (RKH, GC). 1983-21-A immature El Dorado Shores, Jefferson Co., 1-12 Sept (GAS). These are upstate records of a species normally confined to Long Island, both firsts for their respective *Kingbird* reporting regions.
- ✓ **GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*Anser albifrons*). 1983-3-A immature Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, Erie Co., 13 Mar (RFA). 1983-5-A adult Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge Orleans Co., 24 Mar (JSM). This species was removed from the list of species under review in 1981 and no longer will be reviewed by this Committee.

- ✓ **ROSS' GOOSE** (*Chen rossii*). 1983-2-A-F adult Round Pond, 2.5 miles north of Amenia, Dutchess Co., 13-14 Mar (JWK, MCK, TS, FLG, DMF, MWY). Full details of this first report from New York appear in *The Kingbird* 33: 153; 1984. It follows a number of other reports from the Atlantic Flyway.
- ✓ **COMMON EIDER** (*Somateria mollissima*). 1983-35-A adult male in flight Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., 28 Apr (VAD). This is one of the few documented records from upstate New York.
- ✓ **BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** (*Elanus caeruleus*). 1983-7-A-C adult Hopewell Junction, Dutchess Co., 26-27 Apr (MCK, JWK, KMMvD). Full details of this first New York record appear in *The Kingbird* 33: 151; 1984. The report is without precedent. The nearest prior records are from Illinois and South Carolina.
- ✓ **SANDHILL CRANE** (*Grus canadensis*). 1983-9-A one Tivoli North Bay, town of Red Hook, Dutchess Co., 4 May (EK). 1983-10-A adult Derby Hill, Oswego Co., 5 May (GAS). These are the 18th and 19th records from New York; they could pertain to a single bird.
- ✓ **PIPING PLOVER** (*Charadrius melodius*). 1983-22-A immature Sylvan Beach, Oneida Co. (DWC), photograph on file. This is the first upstate New York report reviewed by the NYSARC since 1978.
- ✓ **AMERICAN AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra americana*). 1983-27-A female Carlton, Orleans Co., 4 June (RGS). A late spring upstate report, at which time the species is most often reported there.
- ✓ **LITTLE STINT** (*Calidris minuta*). 1983-17-A-D adult Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 17-22 July (THD, DS, HM, PAB). This rusty-headed individual was variously identified as this species and Rufous-necked Stint, (*Calidris ruficollis*). European authorities, observers familiar with both species, and the Committee concur that its characteristics agree with those now believed diagnostic of Little Stint. This is the first record from New York State. There are several other recent records from the Atlantic seaboard of the United States. This bird is known to have been photographed, but the Committee has been unable to locate any of the original photographs; we urge the photographer to deposit one or more originals at a repository of his choice.
- ✓ **STILT SANDPIPER** (*Calidris himantopus*). 1983-6-A adult Ithaca, Tompkins Co., 2 Apr (GMCH). 1983-26-A adult Hamlin Beach, Monroe Co., 8 May (RGS). Still more spring records, the first extraordinarily early, of a shorebird far more numerous in New York during the fall migration.
- ✓ **ROYAL TERN** (*Sterna maxima*). 1983-25-A,B adult west spit Braddock Bay, Monroe Co., 31 Jul-2 Aug (RGS, KCG, SH); photograph on file. This is the first substantiated record from upstate New York. Its ap-

pearance is apparently not correlated with any meteorological event.

GREAT GRAY OWL (*Strix nebulosa*). 1983-36-A one NY Rt 86 east of Ray Brook, Essex Co., 30 Dec (JC). This is the only report received for a minor incursion of the species; the great numbers seen in the previous incursion in no way alleviate the need for careful review of reports of this species.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus verticalis*). 1983-34-A one Miner Hill, South Otselic, Chemung Co., 16 Oct (DS); photographs on file. 1983-37-A one Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca Co., 25 Sept (RE). Upstate records of a species more regular on Long Island.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*). 1983-31-A adult Fulton, Oswego Co., 18 Dec (FGS). This is the latest documented record from New York by nearly a month. The NYSARC has not seen details for a comparable report noted in *The Kingbird* 33: 142; 1984.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (*Dendroica dominica*). 1983-38-A-C adult showing characteristics of the western race *albilora*, Webster, Monroe Co., 13 Nov (RGS, MAS, CC). This species is most unusual at any time in upstate New York.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*). 1983-8-A adult male Richmond Co., 2 May (B & NS), photograph on file. 1983-11-A adult male Pine City, Chemung Co., 6-7 May (RC). Full details of the first report, including a photograph, appear in *The Kingbird* 33: 230; 1983. There are perhaps a dozen records, some of dubious origin, from Long Island and two prior records from upstate New York.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*Ammospiza caudacuta*). 1983-24-A-D one Westport, Essex Co., 24 Oct (GC, DMR, JMCP, RKH). An upstate New York record of a species seldom found away from Long Island.

1983 REPORT, IDENTITY ACCEPTED, ORIGIN UNCERTAIN

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*). 1983-4-A adult Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Genesee Co., 16 Mar (RFA). Although seen during a period of migration, it is impossible to establish the origin of this individual, as the species is so common in zoos and private collections.

1983 REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

WESTERN GREBE (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). 1983-33-A one Aurora, Cayuga Co., 9 Nov.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). 1983-16-A adult Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Queens Co., 16 July.

PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus sp.*). 1983-1-A-C one in Basic plumage, Irondequoit Bay, Monroe Co., 2-3 Jan. Reported both as Red (*P. fulicaria*) and Red-necked Phalarope, (*P. lobipes*). The description is equivocal. The former is far more likely at this season.

DOVEKIE (*Alle alle*). 1983-28-A one Ontario Beach, Charlotte, Monroe Co., 22 Sept.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (*Picoides tridactylus*). 1983-14-A female Rathbone, Steuben Co., 16 June.

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta thalassina*). 1983-12-A immature Big Flats, Chemung Co., 18 May.

BACHMAN'S WARBLER (*Vermivora bachmanii*). 1983-15-A female Poa Brook, Delaware Co., 14 July.

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER (*Vermivora virginiae*). 1983-20-A adult Johnstown, Fulton Co., 24 Aug.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*Ammodramus caudacutus*). 1983-13 one Annandale-on-Hudson, Dutchess Co., 17 May.

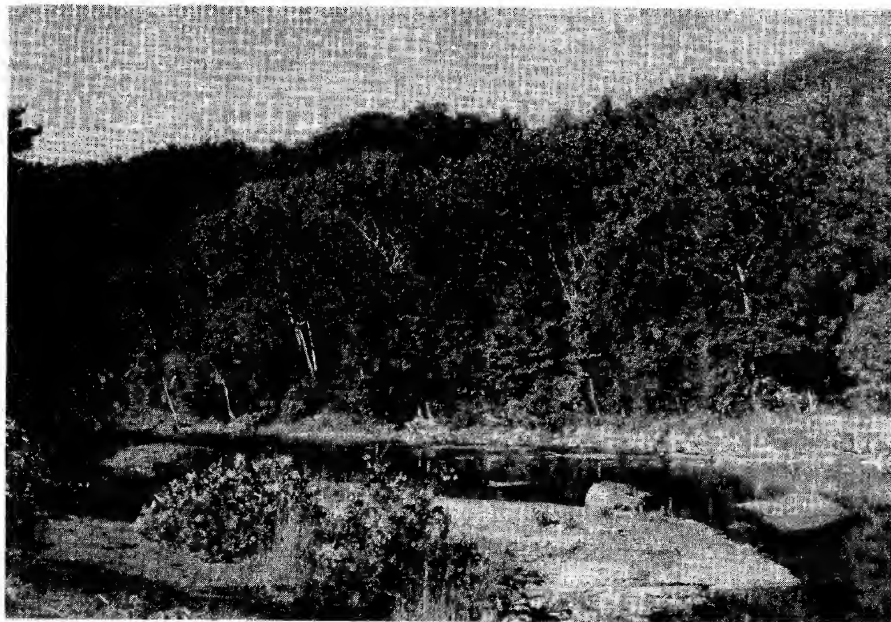
With the addition of Ross' Goose, Black-shouldered Kite, Little Stint and Golden-crowned Sparrow, the New York state list now includes 427 species.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Paul A. DeBenedictis, Chairman
Dr. Robert F. Andrle
Dr. Kenneth P. Able
Mr. Thomas H. Davis
Dr. Robert O. Paxton

Contributors: Robert F. Andrle, Fred Bodsworth, Paul A. Buckley, Geoffrey Carleton, Carolyn Cass, Joan Clark, Richard Clements, James Clinton, Dorothy W. Crumb, Thomas H. Davis, Vernon A. Dewey, Ruth Eckhardt, Dorothy M. Fleury, Robert V. Folker, R. H. Gaunt, John R. Given, Robert Grant, Kevin C. Griffith, Florence L. Germond, Robert K. Hagar, Sandra Hazen, Seward T. Highley, Peter Hunt, James W. Key, Mary C. Key, Erik Kiviat, Kenneth M. McDermott, G. M. McHugh, David Messineo, Herald Morrin, John S. Morse, Robert O. Paxton, John M. C. Peterson, David M. Rutkowski, F. G. Scheider, Walter Sedwitz, Dominic Sherony, David Sibley, Bill and Norma Siebenheller, Gerald A. Smith, Robert G. Spahn, Trixi Strauss, Mary Ann Sunderlin, Tom Tetlow, Mary P. Welles, Mary W. Yegella.

A FIRST RECORD OF NESTING YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS IN NEW YORK STATE

TIMOTHY BAIRD



*Nest site of Yellow-throated Warbler
Greene Co., Town of So. Cairo, along Catskill Creek*

Janet Carroll

June 1984

Allegheny State Park in Cattaraugus County is rich in ornithological history. Fifty years ago Aretas A. Saunders, a naturalist-instructor at the former Allegheny School of Natural History, pioneered modern ecological studies of birds with field work in the Park. The heart of the area where Saunders concentrated his work – the vicinity of Science Lake along the Quaker Run – reaffirmed its worthiness for special attention in July of 1984. A pair of Yellow-throated Warblers (*Dendroica dominica*) pushed northward to nest here, representing the first breeding pair recorded for New York State.

Science Lake lies at 567 meters (1860 feet) elevation in a region of unglaciated, forested upland on the Allegheny Plateau. The Pennsylvania border is only 1.3 kilometers (¾ mile) to the south. Eastern con-

iferous-deciduous forest covers the rugged terrain. Sugar Maple, Black Cherry, American Beech, Yellow Birch, and Eastern Hemlock are the prevailing tree species.

The earthen portion of the dam creating the 1.7-hectare (4.2-acre) Science Lake supports a small, planted association of White, Red, and Scotch Pines. The Yellow-throated Warbler nest was built in a thick tuft of needles near the end of a branch and close to the top of a Red Pine at a height of about 19 meters (62 feet). The nest tree was next to a well-traveled road and in an area frequented by Park visitors.

The presence of a Yellow-throated Warbler was called to my attention by the song of the male on 9 July. That bird was heard singing and observed regularly in the aforementioned pines over the next week by myself and Dr. Richard Clark of York College in Pennsylvania. After 15 July observations were not made again until 20 July, when a bird was seen in the same area and heard giving an emphatic chip note. I heard no song on that date. On 21 July Willie D'Anna, a birder from Niagara Falls, made the first confirmation of the presence of two adult birds. Close observation by Willie and a friend revealed these adults approaching the well-concealed nest with food. D'Anna showed the nest to me and several members of the Cattaraugus County Bird Club on the same day.

In retrospect, the sequence of observations suggest that the female remained inconspicuous while incubating and that the eggs hatched sometime close to 21 July. On 26 July I observed both adults, and the male sang regularly. At this time feeding was frequent at the nest. My final observation of the adults was on 29 July, when both were seen in the vicinity of the nest, but an hour's observation revealed no approach by them to the nest. The male sang occasionally and with little volume. These latter observations lead me to suspect the young were near fledging, or had recently fledged, on the 29th.

During the nesting period nestlings were not actually seen, and the tree was not climbed to check the nest's contents. The evidence for nestlings was provided by the activity of the adults, including the removal of a fecal sac from the nest. I collected the nest on 9 August with the permission and kind assistance of Allegany State Park personnel. The nest is now in the collection at the Buffalo Museum of Science.

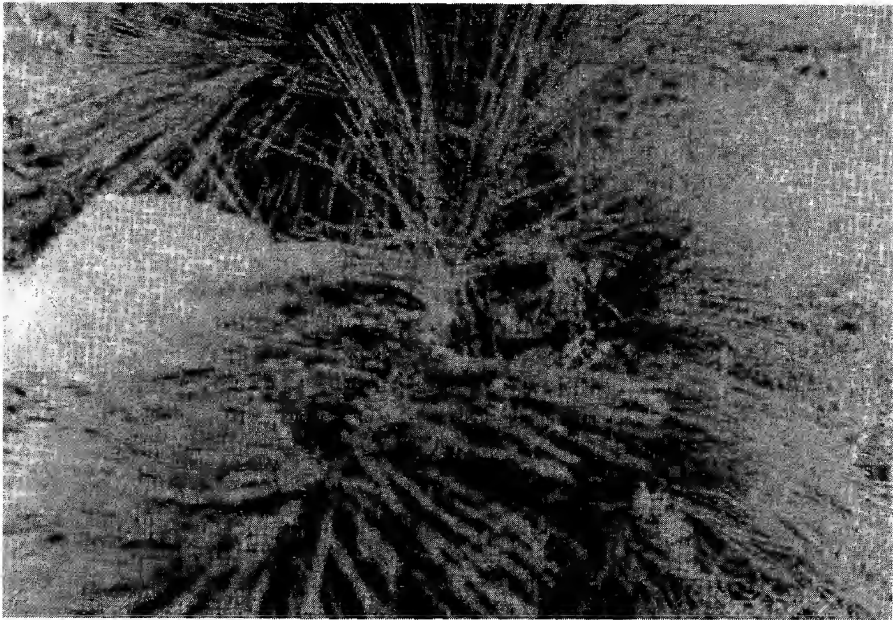
With reference to the possible subspecies of Yellow-throated Warbler this pair represented, I can only suggest that the area is most likely an extension of the range of the western subspecies, *D. dominica albilora* (A.O.U. Check-list, 1957, p. 498). I saw no yellow in the area of the lores. This, however, is apparently not a reliable nor necessarily a distinguishing field mark (Bull, 1974, p. 494). Beardslee and Mitchell (1965, p. 381) summarize previous occurrences of this warbler in western New York. Two more recent occurrences in Allegany State Park are reported in *The Kingbird* (Pitzrick, 1983, p. 264).

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- Beardslee, Clark S., and Harold D. Mitchell, 1965. Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region. *Bull. Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences* 22.
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242 East State Street, Salamanca, NY 14779

Editors' Note: At the time Mr. Baird wrote this article, he did not know that another nesting pair had been discovered in Greene Co., approximately 250 miles due east, by David Gagne. Below is a photo of that site. The nest is now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History. The question of which record is first is not really of great importance, but the Greene Co. pair was observed building their nest on 6 June.



*Nest of Yellow-throated Warbler
Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus Co.*

Tim Baird

August 1984

NEW YORK STATE WATERFOWL COUNT, JANUARY 1984

WALTON B. SABIN

The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., held the 1984 winter Waterfowl Count from 14 January through 22 January, with 15 January as the target date. All Regions completed their counts within the established dates.

The count period this year was kinder weatherwise than the last two years. Although there was some bitter cold weather, the two weekends were basically sunny. Exceptions are always the case east of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, where snowfall can be expected when there is none elsewhere. Although the count did not set a record for the grand total, most observers felt results were better than average. The grand total count for 1984 (Table I) was down 9.7% from 1983 to 237,098, but still a worthy 18.7% above the eleven year average (1973-1983) of 199,713.

Comparing 1984 to 1983 count figures (Table II), the commoner species showed decreases for all listed species except Canada Goose, Canvasback, Redhead and scaup, which is especially encouraging for both Canvasback and Redhead.

Next, comparing 1984 figures with the 1973-1983 average (Table III) only Brant, American Wigeon, Oldsquaw, all three scoters and American Coot were down markedly from their eleven year averages. Brant in the Atlantic Flyway (Maine to Florida) were up slightly, which might indicate that some Brant migrated through to New Jersey or Virginia, the two states having the greatest numbers, instead of staying in New York. The same could be said for American Coot, except the greatest numbers were recorded in Florida. Oldsquaw and the three scoters, all being "sea ducks," could be easily missed. There is a lot of ocean out there! As for American Wigeon, the Atlantic Flyway is showing a 29.4% decrease compared to 1983 and an even greater decrease of 38.5% from the five year average (1979-1983). This species, perhaps, bears watching. Of the other ten species, six show substantial increases over their eleven year averages, while the remaining four show fluctuations which are to be expected.

The Department of Environmental Conservation 1984 aerial survey, which was delayed due to poor visibility and flying conditions caused by snowstorms, wind and ice fog, and conducted from 3 January to 23 January is presented in Table IV. Table V compares 1983 aerial survey results with 1984. These data are offered without comment.

The 1985 Federation Waterfowl Count dates are from 12 through 20 January, with Sunday, 13 January, as the target date.

I wish to thank the upwards of one hundred observers who participate each year. A special thanks also to the regional compilers who coordinated all those volunteers. The regional compilers are:

Region 1 - Alan Reckhow

2 - Warren Lloyd

3 - Eric Donohue*

4 - Leslie Bemont

5 - Fritz Scheider

Region 6 - Lee Chamberlaine

7 - John Peterson

8 - Paul Grattan

9 - Edward Treacy

10 - Stephen Dempsey

*A warm welcome to Eric. He has replaced John Confer who has served well and, because of many other duties, has had to relinquish his compiler's position. Thanks, John.

652 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, New York 12159-0044

TABLE I

[illegible]

American Duck sp?	1	2	16							813	832
Canvasback	5,886	2	730		75	4			919	1,021	1,881
Redhead	337	2	7,833		84			10	7	58	8,331
Ring-necked Duck			2		1				17	73	93
Scaup, not to spec.			782							14,532	15,312
Greater	804	2,393	45	1	1,347	500	1		2	50,132	55,225
Lesser	24	1	6		8				1	286	326
Eider, Common										2	2
King										2	2
Harlequin Duck										5	5
Oldsquaw	765	164			78	82				1,235	2,324
Scoter, Black										78	78
Surf					1					134	135
White-winged	15	141			19					1,728	1,903
Goldeneye, Common	4,084	1,093	488	50	1,039	685	224	7	209	3,197	11,076
Barrow's	1						1			1	3
Bufflehead	308	75	234		111	8	8	2	36	3,592	4,374
Merganser, Hooded	1		16		3			1	1	224	246
Common	2,046	599	105	43	2,189	270	269	159	6,778	9	12,467
Red-breasted	689	136	20	2	131	1				3,498	4,477
Ruddy Duck									2	648	650
Mallard x ?				3							3
American Coot	26		688		1				78	523	1,316
Gadwall x ?										1	1
TOTALS	18,748	6,829	49,619	541	7,732	1,686	1,128	1,490	12,516	136,310	237,098

TABLE II

Comparison of 1984 with 1983, for all species totalling over 1,000 individuals in 1983, and showing the per cent change from 1983 to 1984.

Species	1984	1983	% change
Brant	6,138	20,428	— 70.0
Canada Goose	47,565	40,727	+ 16.8
American Black Duck	16,826	19,535	— 13.9
Mallard	26,688	27,101	— 1.5
American Wigeon	832	2,373	— 64.9
Canvasback	15,758	11,087	+ 42.1
Redhead	8,331	6,553	+ 27.1
Scaup (both)	70,863	62,451	+ 13.5
Oldsquaw	2,324	4,473	— 48.0
Scoter (all three)	2,116	7,520	— 71.9
Goldeneye (both)	11,079	12,278	— 9.8
Bufflehead	4,374	7,008	— 37.6
Common Merganser	12,467	29,809	— 58.2
Red-breasted Merganser	4,477	5,003	— 10.5
American Coot	1,316	1,506	— 12.6
TOTALS	231,154	257,852	— 10.4

TABLE III

Comparison of the 1984 count with the 1973-1983 average for the same species as in Table II, and showing the per cent change from the average.

Species	1984	Average 1973-1983	% change
Brant	6,138	11,396	— 46.1
Canada Goose	47,565	25,863	+ 83.9
American Black Duck	16,826	18,613	— 9.6
Mallard	26,688	20,375	+ 31.0
American Wigeon	832	2,133	— 61.0
Canvasback	15,758	11,758	+ 34.0
Redhead	8,331	6,416	+ 29.8
Scaup (both)	70,863	61,208	+ 15.8
Oldsquaw	2,324	2,976	— 21.9
Scoter (all three)	2,116	10,760	— 80.3
Goldeneye (both)	11,079	11,798	— 6.1
Bufflehead	4,374	4,350	+ 0.6
Common Merganser	12,467	12,319	+ 1.2
Red-breasted Merganser	4,477	2,324	+ 92.6
American Coot	1,316	2,004	— 34.3
TOTALS	231,154	204,299	+ 13.1

TABLE IV

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Aerial Count - 3-23 January, 1984

All species of about 1,000 individuals and more

Species	Upstate	Long Island	Total
Mute Swan	10	1,225	1,235
Brant		2,427	2,427
Canada Goose	48,425	10,036	58,461
American Black Duck	7,400	11,701	19,101
Mallard	11,039	2,527	13,566
Canvasback	3,872	5,080	8,952
Redhead	5,650	2	5,652
Scaup (both)	10,805	27,582	38,387
Oldsquaw	2,627	1,104	3,731
Scoter (all three)	592	8,567	9,159
Goldeneye (both)	7,176	2,486	9,662
Bufflehead		1,061	1,061
Merganser (all three)	20,250	5,715	25,965
TOTALS	117,846	79,513	197,359

Note: NO American Wigeons, Ruddy Ducks or American Coots were recorded.

TABLE V

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
1983 and 1984 Aerial Counts Compared

All species of about 1,000 individuals and more

Species	1984	1983	% change
Mute Swan	1,235	977	+ 26.4
Brant	2,427	12,561	— 80.7
Canada Goose	58,461	83,711	— 30.2
American Black Duck	19,101	20,273	— 5.8
Mallard	13,566	35,288	— 61.6
Canvasback	8,952	8,105	+ 10.5
Redhead	5,652	4,075	+ 38.7
Scaup (both)	38,387	29,688	+ 29.3
Scoter (all three)	9,159	1,364	+ 571.5
Goldeneye (both)	9,662	11,030	— 12.4
Bufflehead	1,061	1,131	— 6.2
Merganser (all three)	25,965	27,947	— 7.1
TOTALS	193,628	236,150	— 18.0

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

American Avocet in Allegany County: Driving along Route 19 about 1:00 P.M. two miles north of Belvidere, and .8 miles south of Transit Bridge on 13 May 1984, I noticed a mallard-sized, long-legged, spectacularly long-beaked, black and white bird in the edge of a small temporary pond about 35 yards away.

Using 7 x 50 binoculars, I could see that the long bill curved upward near the end, the black wings were bisected by a broad white stripe parallel to the water line, and the body was pure white but for the lovely buffy-orange head and neck. It was an American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*). My husband, Raymond, and I watched it wade slowly, occasionally tucking its head under its wing for short periods and sometimes bobbing a bit.

Later in the day we returned at 5:35 P.M. to find the bird still there, this time wading and feeding with a sweeping motion of the upturned beak. Also observing it that evening were Doris and Lou Burton, Mary Jordan and Dr. Clarence Klingensmith. The next morning it was gone.

Very uncommon in western New York, five American Avocets were seen at Times Beach, Buffalo, 22 August 1972 (Benham, *Kingbird*, 1973, Vol. 23, p. 138). Yet more unusual in spring across New York State, single birds have been seen at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge 27 May 1983 (Hess, *Kingbird*, 1983, Vol. 33, p. 186), on Long Island 9-16 June 1962 and 3 May 1969 (Bull, *Birds of New York State*, 1974), and the species has also been noted near Monticello, 9 May 1971 (Borko, Niven, *et al.*) and at Montezuma Refuge 20-24 May 1973 (Benning *et al.*) and 20 June 1974 (Smith) (Supplement to Bull, *op. cit.*, 1976).

Vivian Mills Pitzrick, Amity Lake, Belmont, New York 14813

American Goldfinch Stuck on Burdock: On the morning of 18 September 1984, Robert Larsen, a ranger at Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz, New York, was birding on a section of Mohonk property known as Kleinekille Farm when an American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*) caught his eye. It was an immature male apparently perched on some burdock (*Arctium* sp.)

He moved in to get a better look, and as he got closer and closer and still the bird didn't fly away, Bob began to realize that there might be something wrong with it. Finally, he got close enough to see that it hadn't flown because it was stuck between two burrs, and whenever it tried to move it risked being impaled by a sharp spine. Bob carefully freed the bird and examined it. Aside from a tiny drop of blood on its chest and a few feathers left behind in the burdock, it appeared to be fine. He released it and it flew away into a nearby stand of trees.

Stacey Wright, Mohonk Preserve, New Paltz, New York 12561

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Late Nesting of Red-bellied Woodpecker: Ten years ago a female Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) appeared at my feeder in the winter. We live in the Town of Pompey, Onondaga County, at an elevation of 1325 feet. We are not near any streams that are the regular migration pattern for this species. However, we are on a major southbound migration route for fall birds. Since that time, we have regularly had at least one Red-bellied Woodpecker at our feeder in the winter.

In 1980, we had the first successful nesting of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in this vicinity. The adults brought the young to the feeders for suet.

On Saturday, 30 June 1984, one fledged young was brought to my next-door neighbor's suet. To my knowledge, there is only one pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers nearby. The male shows considerable amount of red on his belly which is unusual in the birds I see here. In mid-August, I heard and saw a very agitated Red-bellied Woodpecker at the bottom of my property. I watched as it carried food to a hole in a dead elm tree. The last week in August, both parents were carrying food to this hole regularly. Most of the food that I saw was red berries. The young were very large by 27 August and leaning way out of the nest hole to secure food. The last bird that I saw in the cavity was at 8:00 a.m. on 30 August, 1984. There were none there later in the day.

Birds of New York, (Bull, 1974, Doubleday/Natural History Press, Garden City, NY) and the nest record card program at the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University both give 13 August as the latest fledging date for this species.

It is suggested that this species is single-brooded in the north. I am fairly certain that the same pair brought off this late second brood after fledging only one young in June.

Dorothy W. Crumb, 3983 Gates Road, Jamesville, New York 13078

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

I read with special interest the comments on the recent range expansion of Double-crested Cormorants by Paul and Fran Buckley in the Summer 1984 issue of *The Kingbird*. A correction should be made to their otherwise fine article, regarding the chronology of inland nesting. Double-crested Cormorants first nested on the New York side of Lake Champlain in 1984 (*The Kingbird*, 34: 197-198 and this issue), not 1983 (*contra* Buckley and Buckley, 34: 147).

To review briefly the history of cormorants on Champlain, observations at the Four Brothers Islands, Essex County, date back at least 33 years, with the report of 18 on Island B on 13 July 1951 (unpublished field data, Vermont Agency of Environmental Conservation). I have observed them on or around the islands annually since 1974. The first Champlain nesting, however, took place in Vermont waters when a single nest was found on Young Island (South Sister) in 1982, with 55 nests this year, according to David Capen of the University of Vermont. This summer they finally nested on the Four Brothers, with a total of 22 nests about evenly divided between Islands A and B.

I hope that this information will correct the record before this small *lapsus* begins to take on a life of its own, and I again congratulate the Buckleys on an otherwise fine article.

John M. C. Peterson
Wildlife Management, Four Brothers Islands

Discovery Farm, R.D. 1
Elizabethtown, NY 12932

The Brambling at Pleasant Valley, N.Y., "if accepted will add another species to the NYS list" (*Kingbird* 34: 173,208). One was seen at Tupper Lake, N.Y. April 6, 1962 by Charlie Delehanty (*Audubon Field Notes* 16: 393). During that winter of 1961-1962, two were seen in western Massachusetts (*AFN* 16: 315). There was one at Blairstown, N.J., Dec. 15, 1958 (*AFN* 13: 280). Whatever the status of these birds, the one seen by Mrs. Delehanty, an experienced observer, has as much a place in the state list as the Pleasant Valley bird; she has now submitted a report to NYSARC, which has the species on its "want" list (*Kingbird* 28: 173).

RR 1, Box 79
Westport, N.Y. 12993

Geoffrey Carleton

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMER SEASON

ROBERT SPAHN

Last year's high level of Breeding Bird Atlas activity was matched or exceeded in this year's effort to complete the project's field work. The results are at least touched upon in most of the regional reports, especially in Region 7 where Mike Peterson again reminds us of the tremendous change in level of documentation of the breeding season these past five years with respect to any prior period. What will next summer's (or the year after, since mop-up Atlas work will continue in 1985) reports look like?

This summer's weather was probably relatively typical of New York, with much variability from month to month. Upstate, most regions reported a cool start to June, following a cool May, then nearly ideal weather for nesting birds and Atlassing birders through July. The early cool start apparently pushed breeding back a bit, providing for productive Atlassing through early August. August was WET. Downstate, the June and July Atlas season saw precipitation well above normal, followed by a warm, dry August. In spite of any potential dampening of birders' spirits in these regions, all Atlas blocks were entered and coverage virtually completed.

Let us now look in more detail at the highlights of the results of all this extra Atlas effort. In general, we have obtained a much better picture of some species' ranges, several having significantly changed in just the past ten years since the publication of John Bull's *Birds of New York State*. The maturing pine forests in the higher elevations of western and central regions, planted during the Depression, are now being found to harbor numbers of breeders, not formerly associated with these geographical areas, such as: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and White-throated Sparrow. Other species have been reported in significantly increased numbers or with expanding ranges including: Double-crested Cormorant with active colonies now in Regions 6, 7, & 10; Great Blue Heron; Gadwall; Wild Turkey - increasing northward; several species of gulls and terns - particularly well documented in the Region 10 report; Acadian Flycatcher in seven regions; Common Raven in five regions; Fish Crow moving inland; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; White-eyed Vireo and Philadelphia Vireo in Regions 7 & 8; Nashville Warbler into the lake plain in Wayne Co.; Cape May Warbler in Region 7; Cerulean Warbler - generally; Kentucky Warbler in Regions 1, 5, & 9; another CO for Blue Grosbeak in Region 9; House Finches booming all over; Lincoln's Sparrow with reports up as more observers become aware of their habitat requirements and song; and Evening Grosbeak westward and southward. Of special note this year

we have continued Bald Eagle and Osprey hacking, with these projects contributing to the two nesting pairs of eagles in the state and imminent nesting of Ospreys in Region 1 after long absence; the fledging of young again by a Peregrine Falcon pair from the Throgs Neck Bridge; the Piping Plover nesting at Sandy Pond in Region 5, marred by the loss of one fledgling to beach vehicles as the water level dropped, allowing public access a bit too early; Black-backed Woodpecker new to the breeding list of Region 8; and the surprise thrushes in Region 4, including the number of Swainson's found and a singing Gray-cheeked. Three more species have produced mixed emotions: Monk Parakeet still holding on in Region 9, Mute Swan CO in Region 6, and Canada Goose increasing in several regions. Clear negative trends flagged this year include: low numbers for Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Blue-winged Teal - particularly in Region 6; both cuckoos low across the state; Barn Owl - only one report, from Region 8; a few flags for Chimney Swift; Sedge Wren in only Regions 2, 3, & 6; Loggerhead Shrike now breeding only in Region 6; and few reports for Yellow-breasted Chat. Two interesting approaches to summarizing such Atlas data may be found in the reports from Regions 4 & 7. Typically the bulk of the data is received too late for such relatively complete summary, but possibly after next year's mop-up we can look for some general commentary from each region.

Since this "season" really also overlaps both migration periods, it is appropriate that we look next at records associated with the spring and fall passages. Generally, while cool and wet were common to May in 1983 and 1984, this spring the tail of the migration produced far more late records; some well into June. Some of the best of these were: Lesser Golden-Plover - 15 June, Region 1; Tundra Swan and "Blue" Goose - 4 June, Region 4; Rough-legged Hawk - 4 July, Region 2; Sandhill Crane - June and July, Regions 6, 9 & 10; Common Black-headed Gull - four June dates, Region 1; Glaucous Gull - 13 June, Region 10; Summer Tanager - 18 June, Region 10; and Rusty Blackbird - 2 June, Region 1. The start of fall migration, by contrast, was similar to last year's; termed slow or poor by many regions. Among the very early fall dates we have only: Common Black-headed Gull - 31 August in Region 1; Lincoln's Sparrow - 26 August, Region 2, and 27 August, Region 8; and White-throated Sparrow - 13-14 July, Region 10. You will also find among the groups of species expected at this time, wandering white herons were few, the small south-shore Lake Ontario raptor movement was late, shorebirds were variable - generally better coastal than inland, and most passerines were late and few. Yet, there still were some interesting high counts including: 100+ Ruddy Turnstones - 4 June, Region 2; 30 Solitary Sandpipers - in both Regions 3 & 9; 500 Semipalmated Sandpipers in Region 8; and 672 Blue Jays and 1,913 Cedar Waxwings - 2 June, Region 1.

As usual, there are notes of general interest which don't quite fit above. Let's look at a few. Regions 1 and 5 provide detailed summaries and comparisons for Breeding Bird Survey results. From Region 2 we have the final summary from the spring hawk watch and the start of a fall lake watch. The Region 3 report contains the usual table of peak waterfowl numbers from Montezuma NWR and a table of nesting results. There are obviously still problems accompanying the loosestrife war. Region 1 reports an Eastern Bluebird nest box trail summary. An abundant cone crop is noted by many, flagging an event of continent-wide proportions. The continued spread of Beech Blight is noted in Region 1 and Gypsy Moth outbreaks in Regions 1 & 3. As new nest sites we hear of rooftop Killdeer and Cliff Swallows moving under large bridges. The Region 7 report of numerous sightings of dyed gulls from a Vermont study remind us of the many studies underway in which we can participate by noting the details of marked bird sightings. A question from the Region 8 report on mid-July movements of Tennessee Warblers is easily answered by recalling numerous such reports across the state in recent years, including another from Region 5 this year. For a final solemn note, we have the Region 9 editor applauding the improved water clarity in the Hudson, but then wondering what the soluble toxins are doing to birds (and people?) making increased use of this clearer water. As usual, this compilation only scratches the surface to whet your appetites. There is much more available to the interested reader.

Typically, there are many rarities this season, again summarized near the start of the regional reports. The best of the lot, by region, are: Region 1 - King Rail and Common Black-headed Gull; Region 2 - Marbled Godwit, Long-tailed Jaeger, and Fish Crow; Region 3 - Laughing Gull, Common Raven, and Clay-colored Sparrow; Region 4 - Gray-cheeked Thrush and Fish Crow; Region 5 - Piping Plover, Ring-necked Duck, and Kentucky Warbler; Region 6 - Sandhill Crane; Region 7 - Tricolored Heron, Franklin's Gull and Caspian Tern; Region 8 - Rufous Hummingbird - first state record, pending NYSARC review, Wilson's Phalarope, and Black-backed Woodpecker; Region 9 - Little Blue Heron, Sandhill Crane, Kentucky Warbler, and Blue Grosbeak; and Region 10 - Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Plover, Little Stint - second state record, Arctic Tern - 6!, Sooty Tern, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Again, Region 10 really is a world apart relative to the rest of the state, with many additional records which would be first class rarities in any other region. The BOTS award for this breeding season must again go to a new breeding species for the state, the Yellow-throated Warbler, found breeding in both Region 1 and Region 8. Both nestings fledged young; both nests were collected and preserved.

716 High Tower Way, Webster, New York 14580

REGION 1 - NIAGARA FRONTIER

STEPHEN W. EATON

It was a good nesting year for ducks, water birds in general, and mosquitos. Farm ponds remained full, and rivers and creeks ran more swiftly than usual all summer. June was warm and humid with the warmest day of the three month period falling on 8 June at Buffalo, 89° F. Rainfall measured 6.86 inches at Buffalo, even higher in the southern counties where flooding occurred in Allegany Co. This was 4.14 inches above normal, which made June 1984 the third wettest, according to records kept at Greater Buffalo International Airport. July was drier than normal with only just over two inches of rain coming on the 7th, 18th, 27th and 28th, with trace amounts on 9 days in localized showers. Temperatures were in the high 70's and 80's with two days reaching 88 on the 15th and 23rd. August was almost a repeat of June with about five inches of rain, with measurable amounts occurring on 19 days. (Most data from Daily Weather Records of U.S. Dept. of Commerce.)

The migration of land birds continued into June. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Red House Maintenance Rd. in Allegany State Park 2 June, and a Lesser Golden-Plover was seen on a record late date of **15 June** at the Burgeson Nature Sanctuary in definitive Alternate plumage. (Bull's late coastal date was 9 June.) Also at the same place and time there was a late Semipalmated Sandpiper. Late too were 672 Blue Jays and 1,913 Cedar Waxwings migrating along Lake Erie at Hamburg, and a Rusty Blackbird along the Southern Tier in Town of Alma 2 June. Within three weeks on 4 July Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers and Short-billed Dowitchers were reported as southbound migrants at Oak Orchard WMA and Iroquois NWR. Warbler migration, often starting in late July and August, was very disappointing up to the end of the period but an early Bay-breasted Warbler was caught by Betsy Brooks in a mist net on 11 August.

The Osprey hacking project at the Allegheny Reservoir went well. Mary and John Forness and Tom Jurczak reported that three were released on 13 August and three more on 20 August. On the last date one fell into the water, was recaptured and placed back in its hacking cage to be successfully released one week later. Three of these birds were seen in the area until 19 September. Two adults were present through the hacking period and before. They were seen to copulate on a specially prepared platform on which they had built a nest. Next year may see our region's first nesting since 1948. One of the adults was captured and the band read, proving it was one hacked at the same site in 1981. Bald Eagles were not hacked in the region this year but many sightings were reported.

Walter Klabunde has summarized the Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Breeding Surveys taken in Region 1. Seventeen routes reported 114 species with total numbers of individuals averaging slightly above normal. Of the 114 species, 11 were tallied with highest numbers for the 17-year coverage. These species were Sora (2), Great Horned Owl (6), Belted Kingfisher (13), Red-bellied Woodpecker (9), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (9), Winter Wren (3), Warbling Vireo (72), American Redstart (38), Common Yellowthroat (279), White-throated Sparrow (4), and Bobolink (498). Species with the lowest numbers in 17 years were Northern

Flicker (22), Veery (37), Savannah Sparrow (317), Song Sparrow (841), Red-winged Blackbird (2,041), Eastern Meadowlark (185), and Common Grackle (1,148). It has always amazed me to see how consistent the counts of species on the routes remain from year to year. Only a few species such as Grasshopper, Henslow's and Vesper Sparrows, whose very specific habitat requirements are shrinking, showed continual decline. About 46% of the 114 species showed stable populations over the 17-year period, about 16% showed declines and 38% increases (summary of counts by Walter Klabunde).

Atlasing continued to extend our understanding of breeding bird distribution. More records of Acadian Flycatchers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers and White-throated Sparrows were turned up. The most exciting Atlas find was that of the first recorded nesting of Yellow-throated Warbler in New York State, details in body of this report. (Eds. note - also see Region 8 report). Vivian Pitzrick, qualifying with Betsy Brooks as our Margaret Morse Nice representatives, summarized her Amity Lake Bluebird Trail report by saying she found 38 nestings, with 23 successful; three were lost apparently to weather, one to House Wrens, two to desertions, five to Tree Swallows, two to unknown predators, and two to raccoons. Thirteen pairs nested twice and two pairs nested three times.

Some records of particular interest are: 1. a flock of 11 Double-crested Cormorants 26 August along the Lake Erie shore in Chautauqua Co., was a first August county record. 2. nice to know the King Rail still haunts the Oak Orchard Swamp area. 3. **An adult** Common Black-headed Gull seen in north Buffalo Harbor on four dates in June. 4. a Kentucky Warbler in Allegany State Park. 5. continued monitoring of Prairie Warblers and Clay-colored Sparrows frequenting Allegany Co. 6. a very late Rusty Blackbird near the Pa. line in Allegany Co. 2 June (latest previous date for Region 1 seems to be 21 May, though Axtell found an injured bird as late as 20 June.)

Atlasing people in late June and July started noting abundant cones on the conifers - particularly the cultivated spruces - but also on the native balsams. This might have signaled what was to come but things didn't really become obvious until late August when an abundance of fruits appeared on almost all woody species and perennials. The beech blight has arrived in Cattaraugus Co. working its way west from the Adirondacks, sending gloom into our hearts - our most valuable mast tree is in grave danger: On a hike through oak woods on 6 August Gypsy Moths were laying egg masses at the rate of 25 brown cases per Red Oak tree.

Abbreviations: Allegany State Park-ASP; Allegany County-All. Co.; Allegany County Bird Club- All. Co. BC; Buffalo Harbor-BH; Cattaraugus County-Catt. Co.; Dunkirk Harbor-DH; Lake Erie Bird Club-LEBC; National Wildlife Refuge-NWR; Sanctuary-Sanc.; Wildlife Management Area-WMA.

Contributors: All. Co. BC, Tim Baird, Elizabeth Brooks, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Doris Burton, Lou Burton, Catt. Co. BC, Donald Clark, Jane Clark, Stephen Eaton, Mary & John Forness, Tom Jurczak, Walter Klabunde, Clarence Klingensmith, Terry L. Moore (TLM), Terry Mosher, Raymond Pitzrick, Vivian Pitzrick, Frances Rew, Robert Sundell, Joseph Thill, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy; and Observers: Mary Adams, Robert Andriele, Louis Buck, Arthur Clark, L. Cornell, David Cooper, Willie D'Anna, David Dister, Theodore & Flora Elderkins, Donald Endres, Carl Fosberg, Peter Gradoni, Paul Hess,

Morgan Jones, Harriette Klabunde, Robert Klips, Alice McKale, Judy Mosher, Grace O'Dell, Betsy Potter, Arthur & Olga Rosche, Richard & Dorothy Rosche, Arthur Schaffner.

LOONS-DUCKS: No loons or grebes reported for period. Double-crested Cormorant: seven adults and four imm. at Bourne's Beach along Lake Erie 26 Aug., a first Aug. record for Chaut. Co. Am. Bittern: one at INWR 12, 19 Aug. (DE). Least Bittern: one TWMA 1 June (WD, BP), 7 July and 4 Aug. (DE). Other waders reported were Great Egret: 5-22 July, one to four seen at TWMA (DE). Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1, 8 Aug., 10 and one reported at Buffalo (PH); 5 Aug., one at TWMA (DE); 22 Aug. one at INWR (DE). Canada Goose: continues as nester in region; 9 June at Great Valley, Catt. Co., two with young (TB); 14 4 June Town of Ashford, Catt. Co. (TB); 3-24 June, 2-4 Town of Wales, Erie Co. (AR); up to 20 individuals at Farmersville Sta. in Aug. (D & JC). Green-winged Teal: one at West Valley, Catt. Co., 15 June (TB); four at IWMA 22 June (WD, BP). Redhead: seen by several people 1, 3, 5 June at TWMA. Com. Merganser: female-type plumaged birds seen at Amity Lake 5-8, 28 June from one to four individuals and 1, 8, 13 July from one to four individuals same place (VP, MA); one female-type plumaged bird on Great Valley Creek just north of Salamanca, 13 June (TB); perhaps these are males in eclipse or broodless females.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: only report during period 23 June at Alfred (EB) but much in evidence over Region 1 during period, particularly southern counties and perhaps too common to be noteworthy. Osprey: a late migrant at Alma Pond 2 June (EB); first fall records of singles at INWR, 7, 14 Aug. (DE); other records of summering and hacked birds mentioned earlier. Bald Eagle: two adults and two imm. seen during Osprey hacking period Allegheny Res. July and Aug. (TJ); two individuals 4 July and one individual 11 July, INWR (DE); one adult Town of Belfast, All. Co. (LC *fide* VP) and one imm. Amity Lake 17 July (VP); one at Oak Orchard WMA, 21 July (DE); one imm. at Batavia, 4 Aug. (AS). No. Harrier: continues to be noted in All. Co.; 26 June, 1 and 7 July at Alfred (EB); 22 July, one in Town of Friendship (L & DB). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 3 June, 3 July and 1 Aug. probably represent breeding individuals. Cooper's Hawk: two nests located at All. Co., one successful (VP); 13-31 July, 1-3 in Town of Elma, Erie Co. (CF). No. Goshawk: Town of Red House, Catt. Co. nest containing three young; another nest in Town of Farmersville, Catt. Co. (TLM). Red-shouldered Hawk: several records All. Co. in June and July; one nest successful Town of Carrollton, Catt. Co. (SE). Broad-winged Hawk: nest with two young Amity Lake, 26 June; young in nest Town of Ward; another active nest Town of Amity, all All. Co. (VP); species also seen ASP 6 Aug. (PH); 10 Aug. at Jamestown (T & FE) and 18 Aug. at Cuba, All. Co. (TB). Ruffed Grouse: appeared to be down from high point of cycle two or three years ago (TLM). Wild Turkey: several flocks reported near end of period indicating a stable population but probably more reneesting than normal (TLM); a flock of about 40 individuals in Town of Arkwright indicated success in that area of Chaut. Co. (TJ). Virginia Rail, Sora and Com. Moorhen: all confirmed nesters at Martin Rd. Ext. 1.5 miles southeast of Jamestown, June and July (RS). **KING RAIL:** 5 June one at TWMA (AM, R & DR). Black-bellied Plover: 30 individuals 13 Aug. and six on 27 Aug. at Lewiston (JF, W & HK). Lesser Golden-Plover: one adult in definitive Alternate plumage at Burgeson Sanc. **15 June** (RS, DD) and an early fall record **9 Aug.** at Prendergast Pt., Chaut. Lake (RS). Semipalmated Plover: first fall record 13 July, one at Oak Orchard WMA and 17 July, two at TWMA (DE). Greater Yellowlegs: 10 July, one seen on Goat Island (WD, BP). Lesser Yellowlegs: 4 July one at TWMA (DE); seven 1 July at Tift Farm Nature Preserve (PH); **65** at Prendergast Pt. Chaut. Lake 23 Aug. (RS). Solitary Sandpiper: first fall record of four birds 14 July and 21 July, five at Oak Orchard WMA (DE); 21 July three in Town of Kiantone, Chaut. Co. (TM). Upland Sandpiper: one seen 10 June at Schoolhouse Rd. Exit Rt. 17 (RS). Ruddy Turnstone: 27 July four at DH (TM). Sanderling: four and seven seen on 5 and 19 Aug. at Barcelona, Lake Erie shore (RS). Semipalmated Sandpiper: one on **15 June** was a record late date for Chaut. Co. (RS, DD); on 11 July the first fall date, one bird at Oak Orchard WMA (DE). Least Sandpiper: first fall date 4 July at Oak

Orchard WMA (DE). Baird's Sandpiper: first fall date was on 14 Aug. when two were observed at DH (TM, MJ); another was at Barcelona, 15 miles down the lakeshore 26 Aug. (RS). Pectoral Sandpiper: 11 July was first fall date at Oak Orchard WMA (DE); four others seen 21 July in Town of Kiantone, Chaut. Co. (TM *et al.*). Short-billed Dowitcher: first fall date 4 July at TWMA (DE); on 17 July four seen on Goat Island and again one at Goat Island 29 Aug. (WD, BP). Com. Snipe: 21 July an unusually high number of 28 at TWMA (DE); one in Town of Willing, All. Co. 2 June (EB); seen also at three wet areas in June in Catt. Co. (SE). Am. Woodcock: one in Town of Amity, All. Co. 5 June and on three dates in July in Towns of Amity and Ward, All. Co. (VP); also see addendum this report. The gulls seem to be coming on stronger in numbers and species every year: Little Gull: seen at Buffalo or Goat Island 18 to 29 Aug. by many observers. **COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL:** was seen 31 Aug. on Goat Island (DC). Bonaparte's Gull: one at DH 13 July (TM) and four at Barcelona 12 Aug. (RS). Great Black-backed Gull: 52 at DH on 31 Aug. (TM) and 32 individuals at Barcelona 12 Aug. (RS). Caspian Tern: first fall report 7 July at Tift Farm Nature Preserve (PH); seen at Barcelona 23 July and Bourne's Beach 28 July, 5 & 19 Aug. (RS). Com. Tern: four seen at Barcelona 5 Aug. (RS). Forster's Tern: a very interesting observation by RS of an adult feeding small minnows to a begging juvenile on 23 July at Barcelona. Sundell comments that *American Birds* reports for 1982 & 1983 indicate a colony of 50-100 birds nest at Rondeau Provincial Park, 120 miles west of Barcelona. Black Tern: a count of 20 on 18 Aug. at Buffalo (LEBC, AS) was a hopeful note for this blue lister; also seen at Barcelona 25 Aug. (RS).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Mourning Dove: continues to increase in southern counties (SE). Black-billed Cuckoo: Tim Baird rightly suggests this species has increased with the Gypsy Moth in Catt. Co.; several seen in All. Co. where one was building a nest 30 June (VP). Yellow-billed Cuckoo also reported as singles on four days in June in Towns of Amity and Scio, All. Co. (VP) and one reported 13 July Town of Ward (VP). Short-eared Owl: from 2-25 June one or two at Lockport, Niagara Co. (RA, WD *et al.*); only reports during period. Com. Nighthawk: began to be reported in late Aug.; 26 Aug. 12 individuals at Amherst and 45 at Buffalo (PH); six reported at Fillmore 27 Aug. and one in Town of Angelica 28 Aug. (LB *et al.*). Red-headed Woodpecker: one at INWR 16 June; one at Batavia 5 Aug. (DE); one at Riverside, Chaut. Co. 14 Aug. (T & FE); one in Town of Conewango June (SE); five at Ft. Niagara State Park 26 Aug. (WD, BP); one at Iroquois NWR 1 Aug. (PH). Red-bellied Woodpecker: continues to prosper; one 17 June at INWR (DE); one in Town of Leon and two in Town of Dayton, both Catt. Co. on 3 July (FR, LB), these in Conewango Valley; one on 1 Aug. at INWR (PH).

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one at ASP 2 June (RS) and one at Salamanca 4 June (TB). E. Wood-Pewee: 15 Aug. nest with two eggs "aborted," Amity Lake (VP); latest NYS record if one discredits an 8 Sept. date of 1883 (Beardslee and Mitchell). Acadian Flycatcher: three in Town of Pomfret, Chaut. Co. 13 June (TM, AS); one in Town of Ripley 2 July, feeding young in nest (RA *et al.*); one at Bourne's Beach 23 July (RS); apparently still hasn't spilled over into Genesee Valley as yet. Horned Lark: one to three individuals seen on four days in June at Alfred (EB). Purple Martin: strong colony Town of Conewango June, also in village of Allegany, Catt. Co. (SE); only other report in Town of Amity in June where three to four individuals (VP); still very low in areas away from lakes. Tree Swallow: on 31 July, ten seen at Scio, All. Co. late for Allegheny Plateau. Cliff Swallow: seems to be prospering in Allegheny Valley of Catt. Co. and in its tributaries of Chaut. Co.; one in Town of Portland on 11, 13 June (TM, AS); on 22 July, 15 in ASP (WD, BP). Blue Jay: 672 seen migrating at Pinehurst along Old Lake Shore Rd. Town of Hamburg, 5 June (AC). Tufted Titmouse: reported June and July at Amity Lake (VP) and at Alfred (EB). Red-breasted Nuthatch: on 10 and 19 June, two seen at Alfred (EB) and 19 Aug. first fall report of one at Orchard Park (GO). Carolina Wren: only report received during period was one at Bourne's Beach, Lake Erie shore, 9 June (RS) — this species still down from winter of '76-'77 on Allegheny Plateau. House Wren: four young

in nest **28 Aug.** Amity Lake, All. Co. (VP); latest NYS record according to Bull by three days but Beardslee & Mitchell reported four young "left nest" 11 Sept. Winter Wren: two at Alfred 26 June (EB) and one at Town of Collins, Erie Co. 31 July (GO), are interesting localities. Sedge Wren: none reported for period. Marsh Wren: none reported from Catt. or All. Cos. but two from Chaut. Co.; one from Martin Rd. Ext. near Jamestown (RS) and four from Town of Kiantone 21 July (TM *et al.*). Golden-crowned Kinglet: found in two new spruce stands, Town of Machias, Catt. Co. 16 and 23 June (RA *et al.*); still nesting in previously verified areas All. Co. (EB). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: a nest being built 26 June at Amity Lake later lost to a predator (VP); others seen in Town of Almond, All. Co. (PG) and at Bourne's Beach, Chaut. Co., 19 and 26 Aug. (RS); this species now well established as a breeder in southern three counties at lower elevations. E. Bluebird: appears to be continuing to increase in Chaut., Catt. and All. Cos.; see summary of VP's in introduction. Veery: counts lowest in 17 years of BBS (WY). No. Mockingbird: 11 June one at Lockport (AM, Wrights); one on 15 June Town of Wheatfield (WD); one at Amity Lake 21 June (VP); two at Lewiston 27 Aug. (W & HK). Cedar Waxwing: 1,913 counted migrating along Old Lake Shore Rd., Town of Hamburg, 5 June (AC).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: seems to be appearing more often in Southern Tier counties; one on 2 June SW of York Cors., All. Co. (EB); one at Salamanca 4 & 28 June (TB). Warbling Vireo: 72 individuals reported on 17 routes BBC was highest count in 17 years (WK). Blue-winged Warbler: only report during period of single birds on 19 & 26 Aug. at Bourne's Beach and Barcelona, Lake Erie shore (RS). Golden-winged Warbler: one seen at Alfred 12 June (EB), a species following the melting pot syndrome of the American people. No. Parula: one at Franklinville 2 June (RK, Hornish), (a possible nester?). Yellow-rumped Warbler: nesting in conifer plantations of many species in All. and Catt. Cos.; interesting that we have no records of them nesting in native vegetation. Yellow Warbler: 410 reported on 17 BBC routes was the second highest count in 17 years (WK). **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER:** 9 & 15 July ASP (TB) and 20 & 21 July (WD, BP *et al.*); feeding young in nest 21 July (WD, BP); nest collected by TB after successful fledging and deposited in Buffalo Museum of Science. This is the first recorded nesting in NY State. Prairie Warbler: 13 territorial males in spruce or Scotch Pine plantations in Towns of Alfred & Ward, All. Co. (EB) and Towns of Amity & Angelica (VP). Bay-breasted Warbler: one **11 Aug.** banded at Alfred, an early fall date (EB); one at Bourne's Beach Lake Erie shore (RS). Cerulean Warbler: reported from Salamanca and ASP where flourishing now in oak forests adjacent Allegheny River Valley; also reported from several places along the lake plain. Black-and-white Warbler: one in Town of Amity, All. Co. 6-30 June and 19 & 31 July (VP); one in ASP 21 July (WD, BP); still holding on as breeding species in oak forests adjacent Allegheny Valley. Am. Redstart: 38 seen on 17 BBC routes highest in 17 years (WK). Prothonotary Warbler: one on 1 June INWR (WD, BP) and two at INWR on 22 July (DE). Kentucky Warbler: still not confirmed as breeder but still being seen in and adjacent Allegheny River Valley; one Anderson Trail ASP 2 June on Allegany Nature Pilgrimage Weekend (RS, TB). Yellow-breasted Chat: one on 13 June Town of Pomfret, Chaut. Co. (TM, AS).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Clay-colored Sparrow: seen 13 & 19 June and 4, 22, 29 July at Alfred (EB) and 13 & 20 July in Town of Ward and 21 July Town of Amity, all All. Co. (VP). Vesper Sparrow: one seen 4 July Town of Pendleton, Niagara Co. (WD *et al.*); one and two at Alfred in June and July; one in Town of Ward, All. Co. 7 July (VP); one on 21 July in Town of Cuba and two on 23 July Town of Ward, All. Co. (D & LB); one in June, Town of Leon, Catt. Co. (SE). Grasshopper Sparrow: reported from four towns across southcentral All. Co. centered on Belmont. Henslow's Sparrow: found in Towns of Alfred, Amity and Friendship, All. Co., about same areas as above but in one less town and fewer individuals; one in Town of Boston, Erie Co. 10-29 July (GO); one Town of Ellery, Chaut. Co. 18 July (TM, Mahoney); one Town of Westfield, 28 July (TM); six in Town of Kiantone 18 June, last two records Chaut. Co. (RS, Gardner). Song Sparrow: 841 individuals reported

on 17 BBC routes lowest in 17 years (WK). White-throated Sparrow: heard singing in three towns of All. Co. and two in Catt. Co. in June and July – Aretas Saunders would be amazed. Bobolink: a count of 498 on 17 BBC routes in June highest in 17 years (WK). Rusty Blackbird: one seen while blockbusting Town of Alma, All. Co. 2 June (EB, CK *et al.*) was a record late date for region. Maybe the great increase in beaver meadows in Region 1 will attract them to nest. Orchard Oriole: still trying to follow its southern neighbor into western New York; one on 3 June Town of Yates, Orleans Co. (DE); 8 June one adult male at Greenhurst, Chaut. Co. (RS).

Addendum: Terry Moore, supervising Wildlife Biologist Region 9 DEC, has sent a summary of their Am. Woodcock Surveys taken in May from 1977-1984. In eleven routes run in Region 1 which included All., Catt., Chaut., Erie, Niagara and Wyoming Cos., only 16 individuals heard “peenting” in May 1984 — lowest in all years by almost 50%; in 1983, 43 heard on the same routes.

Many thanks to all and please be patient with your new editor until he gets his feet on the ground, and thanks to my wife for correcting most of the misspelled words.

10 Mile Road, Allegany, New York 14706

REGION 2 - GENESEE

KEVIN C. GRIFFITH

The season started warm and dry, providing good conditions for most nesting species. June precipitation reached 1.67 inches while temperature averaged 66.8° F. They represented totals of 1.11 inches below average and .1° above average respectively. The weather systems for August were produced by patterns that produced the second wettest August in area history. The total of six inches was nearly three inches above the average. The temperature was 2.5 degrees above normal at an even 72° F. These conditions added to the environmental conditions conducive to insect production and helped provide an ample supply for nestlings and recently fledged birds. Minor frontal system passages produced a few good migration days with some good sightings and observations.

Observers were met with some interesting trends in both the nesting activity and the early migration figures. Least Bitterns were once again present in good numbers around Buck Pond in Greece. The presence of Great Egrets in and around an existing Great Blue Heron rookery presented an interesting possibility. Duck populations of Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teals appeared slightly up, as was the case with Hooded Mergansers. Turkey Vultures continued their noticeable increase. Northern Harriers were located in several spots and immature birds were noticed in late summer. Accipiters seemed to be up for the summer season. Red-shouldered Hawks were found in some new areas by atlassers. There were some excellent shorebird species reports even though the flights were only fair. Jaegers were in good numbers with the sighting also of a long-expected species. Barred Owl reports came from new and varied locations, and the presence of a Short-eared Owl at the Monroe County Airport in July left us once again with a very interesting possibility. Common Nighthawks

echoed their spring flight with a good showing at the end of summer. Atlassers located additional nesting locales for Acadian Flycatchers. Whether this is due to increased atlas coverage or expansion of the species remains to be seen. Once again good numbers of Blue Jays nested in the region. A carefully studied Fish Crow produced the second record of the species for the region. Atlassers turned up excellent numbers of Yellow-throated Vireos. The higher regions south of Rochester provided additional reports of some of the more northerly nesting warblers as well as some of the more southern species. Cerulean Warblers were found in conjunction with Yellow-throated Vireos. Suitable habitat invariably produced both species. Atlassers also turned up good numbers of Vesper Sparrows. Dark-eyed Juncos were once again readily noticeable at the higher elevations. August produced another Brewer's Blackbird report. A possible offshoot of this spring's massive Evening Grosbeak flight was the report of summering birds and a confirmed nesting.

The negative trends leave us with some measure of concern for certain species and questions to be answered for others. American Bitterns were tough to find at times. Black-crowned Night-Herons once more appeared in very low numbers. Am. Black Ducks were few and far between; some former nesting locales were vacated. Both cuckoos were scarce. Common Nighthawk went unconfirmed as a breeder again. Carolina Wren reports were down and only two reports of single Sedge Wrens were received. The only Loggerhead Shrike report was from August. No reports of nesting Prairie Warblers were received, and Yellow-breasted Chats were scarce. The number of Scarlet Tanagers along the lakeshore was low; this followed their noticeable scarcity in spring.

Rarities: Long-tailed Jaeger, Laughing Gull, Fish Crow, Brewer's Blackbird.

Abbreviations: A-Avon, B-Braddock Bay, C-Charlotte, D-Durand-Eastman Park and adjacent Lake Ontario, EL-east Lakeshore, G-Greece, H-Hamlin Beach State Park, I-Island Cottage Woods, L-Letchworth State Park, M-Mendon Ponds, R-Rochester, W-Webster, WL-west Lakeshore.

Contributors: Betty Baker, Doug Bassett, Nancy Boudrie, Carolyn Cass, Roberta Childers, Julie Claffey, Anne Clarridge, Dorothy Crumb, Jerry Czech, Mike Davids, Gertrude Davis, Dale Dillavou, Bill & Jean Dingerson, Frank & Bob Dobson, Jim & Kay Doris, Kevin Griffith, Harriet Hamilton, Tom Hampson, Øivind Jensen, Allen Kemnitzer, Warren Lloyd, Hayward Madden, Bob McKinney, Neil & Laura Moon, Mike Murray, Richard & Mary Beth O'Hara, Bernie Olin, Tom Painting, Martha Reinhardt, Patty Reister, Marge Schmale, Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly, Robert & Susan Spahn, Paul & Jeff Spindler, Ann Stear, Mary Ann Sunderlin, William Symonds, Steve Taylor, Tom Tetlow, Dave Tetlow, Eleanor Weld, Monro Will, Doris Wilton.

LOONS-DUCKS: The lingering loons of June were recorded as well as the early loons of the return migration. Red-throated Loon: one B 5 June. Com. Loon: nine H 1 June; one L 3 June, unusual location; one B 5 June, last spring report; one H 23 Aug. first fall report. Pied-billed Grebe: confirmed as a nesting species again in the region. Double-crested Cormorant: not as predominant and numerous as in recent years. Am. Bittern: no major population trends. Least Bittern: max seven G 12 July, good totals in the Buck Pond area once again. Great Egret: the presence of two in a heronry near Avon led to speculation that nesting might be occurring, but no confirmation was even remotely attained. Cattle Egret: one Hogan Pt. 9 June (RO); three Carlton 11 June (WS), the spring influx continued. Black-crowned Night-Heron: not a very good year for nesting, max ten B 1 Aug. (RM). Brant: four Hogan Pt. 2 June, late spring migrant. Summer is not a time for large numbers

of duck species in the region, but some interesting summer observations were noted as well as some fall arrivals. No. Shoveler: two G 4-26 June, pair in suitable habitat. Am. Wigeon: one Carlton 23 June. Redhead: one H 23 Aug., first fall report. Lesser Scaup: one throughout the season. Hooded Merganser: one G 24 July, uncommon along the lakeshore at that time. Red-breasted Merganser: one B 4 July, summer nonbreeder?

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: good numbers in region throughout the season. Osprey: reports from each month of the season, very encouraging. Bald Eagle: one-two imm. B 8-23 June; one imm. W 3 July; one imm. WL 7 July. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two juv. W 24-26 Aug. Cooper's Hawk: one G 25 Aug.; one W 27 Aug., juv. No. Goshawk: one W throughout season (JC). Red-shouldered Hawk: new breeding locations found by atlasers, one Lyons 14/ 21 July (KG). Broad-winged Hawk: a number of nesters found in higher elevations; one G 28 Aug., flying along lakeshore. Rough-legged Hawk: one WL 4 July (MD), dark phase, rare occurrence in summer. The hawk migration at Braddock Bay carried on into June. The final data, as tabulated by Neil and Laura Moon, is contained in the following chart. Included are the species and totals for 1984 (+ and - indicates above or below 7-year average).

Turkey Vulture	2632 +	Rough-legged Hawk	547 +
Northern Goshawk	90 +	Golden Eagle	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9515 +	Bald Eagle	24
Cooper's Hawk	216 +	Northern Harrier	739 +
Red-tailed Hawk	3494 +	Peregrine	6 +
Red-shouldered Hawk	514 +	Merlin	16 +
Broad-winged Hawk	44,347 +	Am. Kestrel	558 -

Wild Turkey: max 29 1-31 July (HH). The shorebird flight was less than spectacular but there were some noteworthy reports. Black-bellied Plover: arr 13 H 9 Aug. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr two G 21 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs: max 65 Rush 28 July. Solitary Sandpiper: max 30 Rush 28 July. Upland Sandpiper: 15 Monroe County Airport 1 July; one WL 14 Aug., last report. Whimbrel: max six H 19 Aug. Marbled Godwit: one H 9 Aug (MD, WS, RD); near rare status, was seen on five separate days. Ruddy Turnstone: max 100+ C 4 June, end of spring flight; arr one H 26 July, first of fall flight. Red Knot: arr one C 24 July. Sanderling: arr nine C 19 July. Semipalmated Sandpiper: three G 15 June, last spring record. W. Sandpiper: one G 24 July, carefully studied bird, adult in near spring plumage. Baird's Sandpiper: arr one H 10 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: one H 3 June, late spring bird. Stilt Sandpiper: one Point Breeze 4 July, arr. Buff-breasted Sandpiper: arr one H 27 Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: one Perinton 4 June; two Perinton 11 June; one G 19 July, fall arrival. Parasitic Jaeger: good early flight, max 11 H 23 Aug., also first fall flight day. **LONG-TAILED JAEGER:** one H 31 Aug (WS), well-studied offshore bird, first record for region. **LAUGHING GULL:** one H 31 Aug. (MD, WS), after steady east winds. Caspian Tern: max 54 WL 1 Aug., very good total for the region. Com. Tern: mediocre totals. Forster's Tern: off year.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: very short supply. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: minimal sightings. Barred Owl: increase in breeding locations found by atlasers. Short-eared Owl: one Monroe County Airport 1 July (DC), former nesting location might possibly be active again; one Parma 14 Aug. (CC), a very interesting possibility on this date. Com. Nighthawk: max 150 WL 4 June. Whip-poor-will: one W June-July (JC), interesting location. Belted Kingfisher: apparent good nesting season. Pileated Woodpecker: good totals.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Flycatcher reports were good during the season. Olive-sided Flycatcher: one I 4 June, last spring report; one H 25 Aug., first fall report. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max three B 4 June; one Holland's Cove 19 Aug., fall arrival. Acadian Flycatcher: this apparently expanding flycatcher population was found in new locations

by atlasers. Bank Swallow: max 5,000 Manitou 26 Aug. Cliff Swallow: colony at B active again. **FISH CROW**: one H 28 July (MD, KG), calling bird was studied at close range, second record for region. Carolina Wren: fewer reports than in recent years. Winter Wren: found in a number of possible nesting locations. Sedge Wren: scarce once again with only two reports; one Hamlin thru June and July; one Huron 15 July, new location. E. Bluebird: nested along the lakeshore this year. No. Mockingbird: increase along WL. Loggerhead Shrike: one H 17 Aug. (WS), only report for this struggling species in the region.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: no reports, change from recent trends. Yellow-throated Vireo: excellent year, atlasers found them often in suitable habitat. Philadelphia Vireo: two 1 2 June, last spring report. Atlassing produced some noteworthy warbler reports as did the arrival of birds in late Aug. Blue-winged Warbler: still increasing, many reports in various locales. Golden-winged Warbler: seems to be declining due to spread of Blue-winged. Tennessee Warbler: arr one Wayne Co. 12 Aug. No. Parula: two L 8 June. Magnolia Warbler: breeding in higher elevations south of Rochester. Yellow-rumped Warbler: two Harriet Hollister Spencer Park 9 June, nest found; one Canadice Lake 10 June. Pine Warbler: one 1 26 Aug., fall arrival. Prairie Warbler: one 1 20 Aug., fall arr; not found in previous nesting areas this season. Cerulean Warbler: found in excellent numbers in suitable habitat. Louisiana Waterthrush: max five L 3 June. Mourning Warbler: widespread breeding in the region. Wilson's Warbler: arr one WL 25 Aug. Yellow-breasted Chat: not as numerous as in previous seasons but were found nesting at Letchworth and Mendon.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: numbers down slightly. Indigo Bunting: were found widespread by atlasers. Vesper Sparrow: they were quite easily located by atlasers in suitable habitat. Henslow's Sparrow: holding on in the region. Lincoln's Sparrow: one Wayne Co. 26 Aug., fall arrival. Dark-eyed Junco: found in higher elevations as a relatively common nester. W. Meadowlark: thru June and July at the traditional Pt. Breeze site. **BREWER'S BLACKBIRD**: one Hamlin 14 Aug., rare fall record. Orchard Oriole: successful nester at Pt. Breeze and Blind Sodus Bay. Evening Grosbeak: one W thru end of June; one H 4 Aug.; possibly a result of tremendous spring flight.

61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, New York 14612

REGION 3 - FINGER LAKES

DICK CLEMENTS

"Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head" would be an appropriate theme song for the summer period. June started out normal in all respects until mid-month when temperatures reached the nineties. Fears of another hot dry summer lasted for only two weeks when June-like temperatures and precipitation returned. July began wet, went dry for two weeks and ended with a cold fall-like rain which measured over two inches in some areas.

In August the faucets were on full force as over eight inches of rain were recorded. Your editor had five inches of rain within a few days. Total rainfall in the Elmira area was 16 inches, seven inches above normal. According to meteorologists, precipitation eventually evens out over the year. Could this

mean an extremely dry fall and winter? Snowfall is sparse enough in the Southern Tier without this added dimension.

The last year of the Atlas project yielded new breeding data for elusive species such as Sedge Wren, Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron and Henslow's Sparrow. Many of the new sightings came from western Steuben County where 55 new or incompletely atlased blocks were surveyed. This area is still relatively unbirded as we receive no reports from there.

It was a very uneventful summer as far as rarities go, with only Laughing Gull, Common Raven and Clay-colored Sparrow visiting our area. Shorebird sightings were few, no doubt because of high water levels. A new construction project along Route 17 in Horseheads has created several drainage ponds which have already attracted some shorebirds and could possibly be a stop-over for migrating waterfowl.

Seasonal negatives include: 1. Swallow count way down. Walter Benning reports, "In place of the hundreds, even thousands, that lined the telephone wires in previous years, the maximum this summer has been but 100 and usually far less." 2. The continued demise of Common Moorhen, Pied-billed Grebe and Black Tern at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. 3. Few rail reports. 4. Waterfowl count at Montezuma way down from last summer. 5. Gypsy Moth damage at south end of Hector Land Use area so extensive many trees such as White Pine, Aspen and willow will not survive.

In the Elmira area certain events occur that tell us that it's late August and fall is approaching. They are as follows: 1. Flocks of Common Nighthawks ranging from 25-1,000 birds migrating over the Chemung River around dinner time. 2. Eastern Screech-Owls' haunting calls piercing the darkness outside your bedroom windows. 3. Blue Jays hollering in the wee morning hours so loudly as to try the patience of the most dedicated bird lover and make alarm clocks unnecessary. 4. Starlings and other birds raining cherry pits on your car, house, head, etc. 5. Brown streaked "darts" and blah yellow "flits" compel one to blow the dust off his field guide and turn to the sparrow and warbler pages to nail them down. 6. Optimists, noting the abundant spruce cone crop, predicting a massive winter finch invasion. Pessimists stating that it will be too cold to go out and look for them.

Abbreviations: Cay-Cayuga; Co-County; L-Lake; MNWR-Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; R-River; Sen-Seneca; SP-State Park.

Contributors and Compilers: W. E. Benning, Jack Brubaker, Dick Clements, John Confer, Dave Czaplak, Vernon Dewey, Wilfred Howard, Herb & Polly Keating, Malcolm Lerch, Dorothy McIlroy, Joan Scrocarelli, Mary Welles.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: seen on Keuka L. thru; Hornell Res. 20 June; Owasco L. 14 Aug. Pied-billed Grebe: a few MNWR in late June but unseen again until end of period. Horned Grebe: two Branchport thru but no evidence of breeding. Double-crested Cormorant: present MNWR thru with a max 16 late June; one Chemung R. 19 Aug. Am. Bittern: max six MNWR late June; one Cohocton area; no other reports. Least Bittern: none observed. Great Blue Heron: nesting in Steuben Co.; doing very well in reporting areas. Great Egret: max six MNWR Aug. Black-crowned Night-Heron: only reported from MNWR. Mute Swan: two MNWR late June.

Maximum waterfowl numbers at MNWR as reported by the Refuge personnel:

Wood Duck	300	27 July, 31 Aug.	No. Shoveler	300	31 Aug.
Green-winged Teal	350	27 July, 31 Aug.	Gadwall	90	27 July
Am. Black Duck	80	thru	Am. Wigeon	300	31 Aug.
No. Pintail	20	thru	Redhead	10	thru
Blue-winged Teal	200	thru	Hooded Merganser	12	31 Aug.

Nesting Success of Waterfowl and Other Selected Species at MNWR

Species	Young Produced	Species	Young Produced
Am. Bittern	4	Blue-winged Teal	16
Great Blue Heron	59	Green-winged Teal	6
Green-backed Heron	6	Osprey	3
Black-crowned Night-Heron	30	Red-tailed Hawk	4
Canada Goose	176	Am. Kestrel	4
Wood Duck	313	Virginia Rail	4
Mallard	66	Eastern Screech-Owl	12
Gadwall	26	Great Horned Owl	4

No. Pintail: three Corning Pd. 13 Aug. Gadwall: young observed north of Addison. Hooded Merganser: nested west of Bath. Com. Merganser: confirmed breeder near Addison. Red-breasted Merganser: one Cohocton R 6 June and two 13 July.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one Elmira 25 Aug. Bald Eagle: two MNWR 30 June; occasional there thru; one Keuka L SP 17 June. No. Harrier: aerial food exchange between adults witnessed at Penn Yan with subsequent breeding confirmed there and at two other locations near Branchport and Owasco L. Sharp-shinned Hawk: two fledglings near Hammondsport 23 and 24 July. Cooper's Hawk: a few scattered reports. No. Goshawk: two young fledged Hammondsport area early July. Red-shouldered Hawk: successful nesting west of Hammondsport early July. Red-tailed Hawk: numbers seem to be holding steady. Am. Kestrel: good numbers of fledged young (W.E.B.) Wild Turkey: a report that birds are being trapped in Yates Co. because of too dense a population (ML). Virginia Rail: adults and imm. Dryden L. 14 Aug.; two imm. Michigan Hollow 18 Aug. Sora: imm. and adults Dryden L. 14 Aug. Com. Moorhen: more bad news from MNWR concerning the virtual disappearance of this bird; nested Corning Pond. Semipalmated Plover: one Elmira 18 July; four MNWR early Aug. Killdeer: two broods perished atop school roof for second consecutive year. Lesser Yellowlegs: max ten Horseheads late Aug. Upland Sandpiper: two areas west Steuben Co.; Holding Pt. Horseheads. Semipalmated Sandpiper: present thru MNWR with max 35; three Seneca L. SP 18 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: present MNWR and Horseheads Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: one MNWR early Aug. Long-billed Dowitcher: one Corning Pond 27 July (MW). Com. Snipe: Jubertown Swamp, Corning Pond Aug. **LAUGHING GULL**: two juv. Seneca L. SP 17 Aug. (Czaplak). Caspian Tern: observed at Keuka, Sen, and Cay Ls and MNWR. Black Tern: one Jennings' Pond 3 June; adult 26 June, imm. 17 Aug. MNWR, only sightings "where there used to be scores." (WEB)

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: singing various locations Chemung Co; confirmed breeder in four locations, Steuben Co. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: feeding young near Elmira 24 June. E. Screech-Owl: doing well in all reporting areas with several breeding confirmations. Great Horned Owl: young calling in July and Aug. Big Flats. Barred Owl: one confirmed breeding area in Steuben Co. Com. Nighthawk: migrating flocks of 25-75 Elmira late Aug.; eggs laid atop Elmira school roof between beer bottle and lighter fluid can. Whip-poor-will: calling Brooktondale 5 June. Chimney Swift: hundreds used abandoned school's chimney as nightly roost late Aug. Belted Kingfisher: very conspicuous along Cohocton R. Red-headed Woodpecker: extremely scarce; missing from usual nesting area Pine City. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: down in Yates Co. Red-bellied Woodpecker: calling Elmira area; two locations Steuben Co. Pileated Woodpecker: commonly seen or heard but no reports of breeding.

FLYCATCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: seemed to be everywhere in Chemung and Steuben Co. with several breeding confirmations. Acadian Flycatcher: singing West Groton and East Lansing areas June; confirmed nester near Addison. Alder Flycatcher: found in 24 new Atlas blocks Steuben Co. with four confirmed nestings. E. Phoebe: nested in abandoned house Wellsburg; feeding young Elmira late July. E. Kingbird: very common in all reporting areas. Purple Martin: scattered reports of very few individuals. Tree Swallow: down in Ithaca, Chemung Co. and MNWR; delayed nesting in several areas; nested in horizontal portion of metal clothes line pipe. Bank Swallow: several hundred Seneca L. SP 18 Aug. Cliff Swallow: nested near Hornell. **COMMON RAVEN**: one Sapsucker Woods 4 July (Smith, Sibley). Red-breasted Nuthatch: nested south of Hornell. Winter Wren: nested Addison area. Sedge Wren: defending territory Jubertown Swamp; one Prattsburg Aug. Marsh Wren: singing Dryden L 14 July; nested Jubertown Swamp. E. Bluebird: mixed reports, most being favorable; nested in 22 of 39 Atlas blocks Steuben Co. Veery: feeding Brown-headed Cowbirds Wellsburg. Swainson's Thrush: none reported. Hermit Thrush: nested Steuben Co. Am. Robin: one pure white albino Elmira late Aug. Cedar Waxwing: nested Pine City late July; a dozen plus mobbing Blue Jays in nesting area.

VIREOS-WABLERS: Solitary Vireo: feeding young Wellsburg early July. Yellow-throated Vireo: singing in several areas Elmira thru. The "blockbusting" in Steuben Co. confirmed the nesting of the following warblers: Blue-winged; "Brewster's"; Nashville; Yellow; Chestnut-sided; Yellow-rumped; Black-throated Green; Blackburnian; Prairie; Black-and-white; Am. Redstart; Ovenbird; No. Waterthrush; Louisiana Waterthrush; Com. Yellow-throat; Hooded; Canada. Other regional warbler reports: Golden-winged: nested Wellsburg. "Brewster's": three sightings Penn Yan area. Chestnut-sided: very common with many confirmations. Prairie: nesting again in Pine City. Cerulean: none reported. No. Waterthrush: feeding three young Wellsburg early July. Hooded: returned to nesting grounds near Hammond Hill Rd.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Indigo Bunting: very common in Steuben, Tompkins and Chemung Co. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: two singing males south of Branchport 7 thru 11 July (Buckelew). Vesper Sparrow: 39 locations Steuben Co. with eight confirmed breeding sites. Grasshopper Sparrow: breeding in 17 Atlas blocks Steuben Co; numbers up in Yates Co. Henslow's Sparrow: more than usual in Steuben, Tompkins and Yates Co.; breeding Pine City.

989 Mountain View Drive, Pine City, New York 14871

REGION 4 - SUSQUEHANNA

HARRIET MARSI

On 1 June, after one of the coldest, wettest Mays on record, it was as if Those in Charge of Weather suddenly realized they had forgotten to turn up the thermostat so in panic set it to its highest reading. For the first two weeks of the month, Region 4 sweltered and steamed adjusting to record-breaking heat! In fact, by combining the two extremes analyzers of spring temperatures from 21 March to 21 June came up with "normal, average for the period!" After mid-June, fortunately for atlassers, the June/July months produced classic seasonal weather — highs in the 80's, lows in the 70's. Rainfall was plentiful, but was scattered thru, mostly in summer showers with only a few thunderstorms.

Early August brought forth the usual "dog days" with humid 90-degree days and warm nights, but even this did not last long and the last two weeks of the period were influenced more by cool Canadian fronts than by warm moist southern air.

The effects of the cold spring spilled over into the summer in several ways. Some birds were late migrating. A Tundra Swan and four Blue Geese were reported in June and several reports of late warblers showed up. Certain birds (notably Canada Geese, Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers, Nashville Warblers and Yellow-rumped Warblers) that customarily nest in the northern sections of the area were also reported in the southern counties. It was as if the biological timeclock took over before they actually had obtained their usual destination. Also, box nesters were forced to delay their nesting. Bluebirds, especially, lost first clutches.

Atlassing again lent an excitement to the period. State forest lands, especially, demonstrated that appropriate habitat attracts suitable species. For example, birds such as the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Dark-eyed Junco, Hermit Thrush, White-throated Sparrow, and Blackburnian Warbler, all thought to be scarce in the Southern Tier, were regularly located — often in state forests where conifers, possibly planted by the CCC in the 30's, have reached maturity. Access to these places is seldom easy, so probably before the atlas, observers also were few.

Atlassers also turned in several rare records, including an Upland Sandpiper in Cortland County, an Acadian Flycatcher in Tioga County, Swainson's Thrushes in Chenango County, a Gray-cheeked Thrush on Mt. Pisgah, Delaware County, a pair of Cerulean Warblers, a Pine Warbler and a pair of Pine Siskins all in Delaware County. Other unusual records were: 21 Golden-crowned Kinglets in Chenango County plus ten in Delaware and Tioga Counties, three Marsh Wrens in Cortland County, and five locations scattered thru for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

By contrast, the early return migration seemed disappointing. Places where numbers of shorebirds are usually seen were almost empty. Migrant warblers had been few by period's end. However, five Common Loons landed on a Delaware County farm pond 14 August and a pair of Double-crested Cormorants spent two weeks at the end of August on a farm pond in Cortland County. There were also two early Osprey sightings in Broome County. Through carelessness of this regional editor most atlas records came without specific dates and in the case of Delaware and Tioga Counties where the same people did the "blockbusting" often the reports read Delaware/Tioga. This editor apologizes.

Contributors: C. Baldwin, B. Bozdos, D. Burgin, B. Caswell, N. Cannon, M. Clark, C. Covey, R. Daigle, L. Dean, M. Dobinski, M. Hall, S. Hartman, C. Hill, P. Hunt, D. Judell, G. Kirch, J. Lehman, F. Linaberry, H. Marsi, R. Marsi, D. Messineo, C. Norte, B. Olds, W. Ostrander, L. & J. Pierce, J. Sedlacek, J. Shepherd, A. Thompson, R. West, S. Willcox, K. Wilson, D. Windsor.

Abbreviations: Br—Broome; Chen—Chenango; Cort—Cortland; CVSP—Chenango Valley State Park; Del—Delaware; NCBC—Naturalists Club of Broome Co.; OPM—Oneonta, Portlandville, Milford; WPR—Whitney Point Reservoir.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: five 14 Aug. Davenport, Del. Co., on farm pond (L & JP). Double-crested Cormorant: two last two weeks of Aug. on farm pond Cort. Co. (SW).

Great Blue Heron: regular thru. Green-backed Heron: regular thru. Black-crowned Night-Heron: one 27 June Br. Co. (NCBC). Tundra Swan: one 4 June, Br. Co. leading a wedge of Blue Geese (HM). Canada Goose: one pair with six young, 29 June, Lisle, Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); one June, pond near CVSP, Br. Co. (JS); one pair with young Cort. Co. on farm pond (SW). Wood Duck: regular thru. Am. Black Duck: four 20 Aug. Susquehanna R., Binghamton (FL, HM); two Del. Co. (PH, DJ, BO). Mallard: common thru. Blue-winged Teal: Cort. Co. (MH). Hooded Merganser: one early July Smithville Flats, Chen. Co. (JL); later four in eclipse plumage in nearby atlas block (JL). Com. Merganser: one 27 June Br. Co. (NCBC); one June Oxford, Chen. Co. in non-breeding plumage (JL). One 3 July and 1 Aug. So. Otselic "on 3 July flew up and down the river agitated and quacking" "not seen again until 1 Aug." (DM); three Del. Co. (PH, DJ, BO).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: regular Br. and Del. Co.; "sightings thruout but fewer than in 1983" Chen. Co. (DM). Osprey: one 22 July Br. Co. (JS); one 18 Aug. Br. Co. (RM). Bald Eagle: one 4 June Tioga Co. (LD); one Del. Co. (PH, DJ, BO). No. Harrier: two late June, Chen. Co. (RW); a pair, So. Otselic, Chen. Co., many sightings (DM). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 11 reports scattered thru. Cooper's Hawk: 12 reports scattered thru. No. Goshawk: one late June Chen. Co. (JL); two Del. Co. (PH, DJ, BO). Red-shouldered Hawk: two 3 June Chen. Co. (BB, FL, HM); two Chen. Co. (JL); one 3 June Br. Co. (FL, HM); one 17 June Br. Co. (FL, HM); one 19 June Br. Co. (FL, HM); two late June Chen. Co. "calling back and forth" (JL). Broad-winged Hawk: one late June Br. Co. (FL, HM); one 4 June Br. Co. (FL, HM); one late July Br. Co. (RM); one "off and on thru Aug." Br. Co. (GK); ten Chen. Co. (JL); eight Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO); a very good year for this species. Red-tailed Hawk: regular thru; count unusually high. Am. Kestrel: regular thru; count high. Ring-necked Pheasant: one June Tioga Co. (LD); one Chen. Co. (JL); 14 Del. Co. "probably stocked" (PH, JD, BO). Ruffed Grouse: regular thru. Wild Turkey: regular thru; increasing. Virginia Rail: two adults with young late July North Norwich, (RD, CC). Sora: one Chen. Co. (DM); two Cort. Co. (MH). Killdeer: common thru. Lesser Yellowlegs: one 25 July, Br. Co. (FL, HM); two 7 July So. Otselic, Chen. Co. (DM). Solitary Sandpiper: one 12 July Chen. Co. (JL); four 29 July Chen. Co. (JL); one 25 July Br. Co. (FL, HM). Spotted Sandpiper: regular thru. **UPLAND SANDPIPER:** two different areas Cort. Co. (MH). Com. Snipe: one 16 June Chen. Co. (JL); two locations So. Otselic, Chen. Co. (DM); two 6 June OPM, "pinned down nesting area, walked in and flushed two birds who circled and winnowed until we left" (MD, KW). Am. Woodcock: regular Br. Co., Chen. Co., Del. Co., Tioga Co. Ring-billed Gull: 35 3 Aug. Otsego Lake (MD). Herring Gull: one 18 June WPR (FL, HM); one July Tioga Co. (LD).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: common thru. Mourning Dove: common thru. Black-billed Cuckoo: 19 reports scattered thru; down from last two years. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: ten reports scattered thru; also down from past years. E. Screech-Owl: regular thru. Great Horned Owl: common thru. Barred Owl: six reports Br. Co.; one Chen. Co.; three Del./Tioga. No. Saw-whet Owl: one Cort. Co. (MH); one Del. Co. (BC). Com. Nighthawk: all period Binghamton, Oneonta; three Del. Co. (PH, DJ, BO); last date one 29 Aug. "singing downtown Oneonta at night" (MD); last two weeks Binghamton 30 or more "hawking" over SUNY campus; sparse elsewhere thru area. Chimney Swift: regular thru altho a reporter from So. Otselic notes "very, very few (2 or 3) less each year" (DM); still present at end of period. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: common thru; a very good year. Belted Kingfisher: regular thru. Red-headed Woodpecker: one Br. Co. (AT); two Chen. Co. (JL); three Del. Co. (DB, PH, DJ, BO). Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Tioga Co. (LD); one Del. Co. (BC). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: regular thru; atlasing has turned up many new locations in Southern Tier. Downy Woodpecker: common thru. Hairy Woodpecker: regular thru. No. Flicker: common thru. Pileated Woodpecker: nine Br. Co.; 13 Chen. Co.; 32 Del./Tioga Cos.; two OPM.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: E. Wood-Pewee: regular thru. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one 28 Aug., one 29 Aug. Vestal banding station (HM). **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** Tioga

Co. (CB, PH, DJ, BO). Alder Flycatcher: regular thru. Willow Flycatcher: regular thru. Least Flycatcher: common thru. Great Crested Flycatcher: regular thru. E. Kingbird: regular thru. Horned Lark: one 20 June Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); three Chen. Co. (JL), five Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). Purple Martin: one colony Endwell, Br. Co. (FL); one colony Center Village, Br. Co. (JS); one female Chen. Co. (RW). Tree Swallow: common thru. No. Rough-winged Swallow: eight Chen. Co. (JL, DM); four Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO); very low count. Bank Swallow: one colony Br. Co. (BB); eight colonies Chen. Co. (JL); nine colonies Del./Tioga Cos.; So. Otselic comment: "increased road construction . . . the reopening of many gravel pits has resulted in increases" (DM). Cliff Swallow: three colonies Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); three Chen. Co. (JL); five locations OPM (MD, KW); 22 Del./Tioga (PH, DJ, BO); high count; comment "beginning to colonize under large bridges" (JL). Barn Swallow: common thru. Blue Jay: common thru. Am. Crow: common thru. Fish Crow: one 4 thru 18 July Binghamton (WO). Black-capped Chickadee: common thru. Tufted Titmouse: regular thru. Red-breasted Nuthatch: two 4 June Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); two 1 Aug. Br. Co. (FL, HM); 14 Chen. Co. (JL); three Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO); one 21 June OPM (MD, KW); one 9 July OPM (MD, KW); one 25 July OPM (MD, KW); one July Tioga Co. (LD). White-breasted Nuthatch: common thru. Brown Creeper: three locations Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); 22 Chen. Co. (JL); 17 Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). Carolina Wren: one pair Chenango Bridge, Br. Co., nested (AT). House Wren: common thru. Winter Wren: one 7 July, Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); eight Chen. Co. (JL); five So. Otselic, Chen. Co. "after none for the first four years of the atlas" (DM); ten Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO); one 6 June OPM (MD, KW); one 12 June, 16 July same location OPM (MD, KW). Marsh Wren: three different locations Cort. Co. (MH). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 21 Chen. Co. (JL); ten Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: one pair 28 July Windsor Br. Co. (JS); one 28 June, Chen. Co. (JL); one So. Otselic, Chen. Co. (DM); two, possibly a pair, Cort. Co. (MH, CN); one Del. Co. (PH, DJ, BO). E. Bluebird: regular thru; most first clutches were lost due to cold, wet spring, but most second attempts succeeded. Veery: common thru. **GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH:** one Mt. Pisgah, elevation 3345 ft., Del. Co. identified by song (PH); very unusual for this area this period. **SWAINSON'S THRUSH:** five locations all Chen. Co. "all in mature spruce" (JL), one 30 June Bowman Lake (elevation 1700 ft.) (JL), one 30 June Genegantslet Lake (JL), one 16 June Pharsalia Plateau (elevation 1838 ft.) remained thru July (DM), one 31 July (elevation 1800 ft) (JL), one July So. Otselic all month (DM); "all birds found thus far have been on or near the so-called Pharsalia Plateau, a relatively flat area with elevation of 1700 to 1900 ft. This area extends from Otselic thru Pharsalia southward and eastward. Since John Bull reports Pharsalia as one of the only extra-montane breeding sites, I am convinced this year's sightings are not the result of the late season. I think a nucleus of birds may be spreading from Pharsalia out." (DM). Hermit Thrush: regular thru; atlassing has located many new sites. Wood Thrush: common thru. Am. Robin: common thru in June and July; sudden decrease in Aug. in some locations in Br. Co. (lawn spraying?). Gray Catbird: common thru. No. Mockingbird: ten reports Br. Co.; one Del. Co.; one Tioga Co., six Del./Tioga Cos.; increasing in Southern Tier. Brown Thrasher: regular thru. Cedar Waxwing: regular thru. European Starling: common thru.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Solitary Vireo: over 50 reports; increase due to atlassing? Yellow-throated Vireo: regular thru. Warbling Vireo: regular thru. Red-eyed Vireo: common thru. Blue-winged Warbler: over 50 reports; increase due to atlassing?. Golden-winged Warbler: one Br. Co. (RM); three Chen. Co. (JL); two Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). Tennessee Warbler: two late July Chen. Co. (JL); earliest Br. Co. banding station 5 Aug. (GK). Nashville Warbler: three locations Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); five locations Del./Tioga Cos.; 15 Chen. Co.; unusual for Br. Co.; late spring migration may have influenced this. Yellow Warbler: common thru. Chestnut-sided Warbler: regular thru. Magnolia Warbler: four locations Br. Co.; 25 locations Chen. Co.; 13 Del./Tioga; three OPM; increase, especially in Southern Tier due to atlassing. Cape May Warbler: one late Aug. Chen. Co. (JL). Black-throated Blue Warbler: six Br. Co.; 14 Chen. Co.; 21 Del./Tioga Cos.; three OPM; increase due to

atlassing. Yellow-rumped Warbler: two locations Br. Co.; 21 locations Chen. Co.; 26 locations Del./Tioga Cos.; three 21 June OPM (MD, KW); one 26 June OPM (MD, KW). Black-throated Green Warbler: over 75 reports: regular thru. Blackburnian Warbler: 47 reports from Br., Chen., Del./Tioga Cos.; increase due to atlassing?. **PINE WARBLER:** one 12 July Del. Co. (PH). Prairie Warbler: four sites Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); six sites Chen. Co. (JL); seems to be expanding its range somewhat. **CERULEAN WARBLER:** one Del. Co., feeding young (SH, BO). Black-and-white Warbler: regular thru. Am. Redstart: regular thru. Worm-eating Warbler: one Del. Co. (PH, JD, BO). Ovenbird: regular thru. No. Waterthrush: 17 reports; three sites Br. Co.; 11 Chen. Co.; three Del./Tioga Cos. Louisiana Waterthrush: 34 reports scattered thru. Mourning Warbler: 28 reports scattered thru. Com. Yellowthroat: common thru. Wilson's Warbler: one 28 Aug. Vestal banding station, Br. Co. (GK). Canada Warbler: 28 reports scattered thru. Yellow-breasted Chat: once June, once July Vestal (JSh).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: regular thru. No. Cardinal: regular thru. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: regular thru. Indigo Bunting: regular thru. Rufous-sided Towhee: regular thru. Chipping Sparrow: common thru. Field Sparrow: common thru. Vesper Sparrow: 15 reports; two Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM); nine Chen. Co. (JL); three Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO); one OPM (MD, KW). Savannah Sparrow: regular thru. Grasshopper Sparrow: nine Br. Co. (BB, FL, HM, JS); five Chen. Co. (JL, DM); five Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). Henslow's Sparrow: three Chen. Co. (JL); five Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). Song Sparrow: common thru. Swamp Sparrow: regular thru. White-throated Sparrow: over 60 reports scattered thru; increase due to atlassing? Dark-eyed Junco: over 90 reports; increase probably due to atlassing especially in Southern Tier. Bobolink: regular thru. Red-winged Blackbird: common thru. E. Meadowlark: regular thru. Com. Grackle: common thru. Brown-headed Cowbird: common thru. Orchard Oriole: one Br. Co. (JL); one Del./Tioga Cos. (PH, DJ, BO). No. Oriole: regular thru. Purple Finch: regular thru. House Finch: common thru. **PINE SISKIN:** two birds, possibly a pair, Del. Co. (PH, DJ, BO). Am. Goldfinch: common thru. House Sparrow: common thru.

Friendsville Stage, Box 1, Binghamton, NY 13903

REGION 5 - ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

PAUL A. DEBENEDICTIS

The summer of 1984 closely paralleled the summer of 1983 just as the spring season did. The season began cool and wet, then abruptly turned hot and dry in mid-June and remained that way, except for an intense rainstorm after 4 July, until early August. By the end of July many areas were experiencing near drought conditions in spite of the plentiful spring rains. August was quite wet (the third wettest on record at Syracuse) and notable for alternating hot and cold spells. The threat of drought was ended; many of our shorebird localities were flooded.

In general this was a very good nesting season. During the past winter your editor compiled long term means for each of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Surveys conducted in the Region. There is considerable year to

year variation in all of them, and only large changes consistent over most surveys are meaningful on an annual basis. Almost all species were found in average numbers. Two species, Mourning Dove and Warbling Vireo, were at or near record highs on the majority of surveys while two others, Wood Thrush and Red-winged Blackbird, were at or near record lows on most counts. Of the rarer species, less well indexed by the breeding bird surveys, cuckoos and Henslow's Sparrow were scarce this season, and Sedge Wren, Yellow-breasted Chat and Pine Siskin were not recorded. House Finch continues its explosive increase in the Region.

Work on the Breeding Bird Atlas was as intense as last season. As of mid-September data had been received from over 300 blocks, but over 50 blocks still have grossly inadequate coverage. The best coverage is from Oneida Lake west, but great strides were made in filling out Oneida and Herkimer Counties this season. Four species were added to list of confirmed nesters in the Region — American Coot, Ring-necked Duck (an addition to our nesting avifauna), Three-toed Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Additionally, a pair of Piping Plovers was present on the south spit of Sandy Pond until late August and fledged at least two young, one of which was later found dead. This is the first Regional nesting record since 1959, and was made possible by the high level of Lake Ontario that prevailed until mid-July and which kept motorized vehicles off the beach during the critical nesting period. Perhaps not coincidentally, the dead juvenile was found after the beach had been opened to traffic. Much new data on the status of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers in northern Cayuga, Oswego and Oneida Counties was obtained. As always several very unusual records were obtained. Extralimital records of Common Loon, Double-crested Cormorant, Acadian Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Parula and Kentucky Warbler were all in the possible breeding category, and one of our few records of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker nesting in the lowlands of Onondaga County was obtained this season.

After five years of Atlassing, only the following species are known to have nested in the Region but have not been confirmed for the Atlas: Least Bittern, Mute Swan, No. Pintail, No. Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, Redhead, Gray Partridge, Spruce Grouse, No. Bobwhite, Passenger Pigeon, Whip-poor-will, Carolina Wren, Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, Bay-breasted Warbler, Prairie Warbler and Red Crossbill. Least Bittern was confirmed at Sandy Pond, which reports to Region 6, and the waterfowl (except the more widespread Gadwall) have nested only sporadically at Howland's Island, which reports to Region 2. Mute Swan records are of feral, short-persistent pairs. Gray Partridge, No. Bobwhite are extirpated from the Region; and of course, the Passenger Pigeon is extinct. The status of Spruce Grouse (contrary to the 1983 summer report) remains unclear. Carolina Wren and Loggerhead Shrike nesting were last confirmed in 1975, Bay-breasted Warbler in 1962, and Prairie Warbler has not been confirmed since 1943. Red Crossbill may have nested in 1973, but no modern reports are fully satisfactory. Only Whip-poor-will and Sedge Wren probably nested in the Region during this five year period.

A fair variety of migrant warblers was reported from Syracuse at the start of the period and record late Ospreys and White-crowned Sparrows were found. All of the migrant shorebirds reported appeared to be southbound. While a very

good variety were found, numbers generally were slightly below long term averages. Black Tern numbers again were quite high along Lake Ontario in August. Migrant Yellow Warblers were conspicuous after early July and a good variety of migrant passerines, especially flycatchers, thrushes and warblers, were found in August.

A total of 208 species plus two hybrid forms were reported this season, more than usual. The great rarities and novelties were Ring-necked Duck, Piping Plover, Acadian Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike and Kentucky Warbler. Slightly less unusual species include Great and Snowy Egrets, Peregrine Falcon, Whimbrel, Parasitic Jaeger, Little Gull, Forster's Tern, No. Saw-whet Owl, Three-toed Woodpecker, Common Raven, "Lawrence's" Warbler and Orchard Oriole. Several other unseasonable and/or out of place records are mentioned below. We were saddened this summer by the loss of two contributors, Lorraine Aust and Bruno DeSimone.

Contributors: Dorothy K. Ackley, David J. Cesari, Dorothy Crumb, Paul DeBenedictis, Robert L. Evans, John Hanyak, Lynn Hemink, Gene Huggins, Ruth Knight, Jeanne Lally, Gary Lee, Robert L. Long, George Maxwell, Robert L. Post, Margaret S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, Magdalena Stooks.

Abbreviations: arr-fall arrival; last-last of spring; LOL-Lake Ontario littoral, Oswego Co.; NYSARC-report submitted to New York State Avian Records Committee; Onon-Onondaga; SP-Sandy Pond, Oswego Co.; StMc-Saint Mary's Cemetery, DeWitt, Onon Co.; SVB-Sylvan and Verona Beach, Oneida Co.; Syr-Syracuse; twsp-township.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one in a Beaver Pond, town of Florence, 9 June not found later in season. Pied-billed Grebe: only at three sites, confirmed Howland's Island. Double-crested Cormorant: pair Stillwater Res during June; arr SP 3 July, max 194 SP 25 Aug. Least Bittern: nesting confirmed SP, one nearby at The Elms Golf Course 25 July is a new site. Great Egret: one SVB 21-23 July, probably the same bird Delta Lake 27 July. Snowy Egret: one Poolsbrook 17 June (JL) is rather unseasonable. Black-crowned Night-Heron: singles Poolsbrook 17 June and SVB 16-19 Aug. Mute Swan: seven at Lyons Pond after 17 Aug (MS) of uncertain status. Brant: last 75 Central Square 3 June. Canada Goose: groups of 50+ after mid-Aug, none obviously migrants, included a group at Pennellville originally neck-ringed in Maryland (DWC). No. Pintail: arr SP 14 Aug. Gadwall: arr 25 Aug SP. **RING-NECKED DUCK**: female with young n. Herkimer Co. (DEC block-busting team) is first Regional nesting record. Greater Scaup: arr SP 25 Aug. White-winged Scoter: arr SP 23 Aug.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: singles Otisco Lake 4 June and Baldwinsville 18 June (PDeB, ties record late) probably late migrants; arr SVB 19 July. Bald Eagle: near adult Delta Lake 18 Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: more reports than usual north of Oneida Lake, a known stronghold. Peregrine Falcon: arr s. of Verona Beach 30 Aug. Ruffed Grouse: numbers low all season. Wild Turkey: reports from Chittenango 5 June and Holland Patent 31 Aug. are rather far north in the Region. No. Bobwhite: two reports central Cayuga Co., including four young n. of Duck Lake, are of uncertain provenance. Sora: very scarce, reported only from two sites. Am. Coot: nesting confirmed Sterling Twsp late Aug., first for Regional Atlassing effort. Black-bellied Plover: arr Delta Lake 27 July. Lesser Golden-Plover: arr s. of Verona Beach 19 Aug., max 25 there 30 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: arr Onon Lake 19 July. **PIPING PLOVER**: see introduction (mob, NYSARC). Whimbrel: singles SP 26 July and 23 Aug., s. of Verona Beach 16-20 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: arr SVB 13 July. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Onon Lake 28 June. Solitary Sandpiper: arr SVB 13 July. Ruddy Turnstone: arr SP 23 July, max 8 SVB 30 Aug., high for recent years. Red Knot: arr Onon Lake 18 July. Sanderling: arr SP 18 July. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 8 July, max 165

SVB 4 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr Onon Lake 29 June, max 26 SVB 13 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: arr SVB 4 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: arr SP 4 Aug. Dunlin: arr SVB 19 Aug (RK), early and only report. Pectoral Sandpiper: arr SP 28 July. Stilt Sandpiper: arr SVB 17 July. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr Onon Lake 18 July. Wilson's Phalarope: arr SVB 4 Aug., two later reports in Aug. Parasitic Jaeger: five LOL 23 Aug. and one SP 25 Aug. somewhat early. Little Gull: adult and juv. SP after 16 Aug. Bonaparte's Gull: arr SVB 13 July, max 185 SP 23 Aug. plus 75 Onon Lake 21 Aug., very high at both sites. Great Black-backed Gull: present along n. shore Oneida Lake all summer, nesting status not established. Caspian Tern: arr Selkirk Shores State Park 3 July; up to four SVB after 23 Aug., where very unusual. Com. Tern: SP colonies limited by high water; max 235 SP 23 Aug. and 197 SVB 8 Aug. Forster's Tern: up to three reported SP after 16 Aug. Black Tern: no new nesting sites but max 46 SP 16 Aug. continues encouraging numbers from last year.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: generally scarce; one singing Yellow-billed Cuckoo song Whiskey Hollow 28 June (FGS, JH) also responded to tape of that species and ignored its own song. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: only two reported. No. Saw-whet Owl: one Nick's Lake 15 Aug. but none Oswego Co. lowlands this summer. Com. Night-hawk: about 100 at two sites Syr. 30 Aug. were major exodus but a few local birds still present later suggest those were of Canadian origin. Red-bellied Woodpecker: second brood young in a nest n. Pompey twsp 30 Aug. (DWC) are exceptionally late. Red-headed Woodpecker: somewhat scarce this season. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: following spring reports from Camillus, pair n. end Otisco Lake during summer (RP) and female with fledged young s. end Cross Lake 20 July (PDeB) are at unusually low altitude nesting sites. Three-toed Woodpecker: nesting confirmed two sites n. Herkimer Co. are first recent verified Regional nesting records.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 19 Aug. Poolsbrook. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Sheds 4 June; nesting finally confirmed n. Herkimer Co. **ACADIAN FLYCATCHER:** one Mayfield 5 July (FGS) in atypical habitat (FGS) is eighth Regional record, from same site as fifth. Cliff Swallow: numbers reduced at lower elevations, more typical at higher elevations. Com. Raven: present Old Forge dump all season. Tufted Titmouse: family group Cross Lake 20 July is new nesting site. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one Town of Florence 17 June (FGS) not found later. E. Bluebird: max 21 Town of Florence 7 June. No. Mockingbird: one still present Old Forge all season. **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:** migrant near Canastota 20 Aug. (DWC).

VIREOS-WARBLED: Philadelphia Vireo: arr LOL 25 Aug. Blue-winged Warbler: adult feeding juv Golden-winged n. of Duck Lake 22 July (MSR); family group w. of Altmar and territorial male s. of Sandy Creek 3 July are northernmost Regionl nesting reports. Golden-winged Warbler: found to greatly predominate over Blue-winged Warblers Cayuga Co. n. of Hannibal. "Brewster's" Warbler: two reports including one feeding a "Lawrence's" Warbler Town of Florence 21 July (FGS). Tennessee Warbler: last Syr. StMC 1 June, arr Tug Hill Plateau 14 July. No. Parula: female in mixed hemlock/hardwoods s. of Little Falls 9 July (PDeB) most unexpected; arr Selkirk Shores State Park 25 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: last StMC 1 June; arr SP 15 Aug. Cape May Warbler: arr town of Webb 25 Aug. Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr SP 23 Aug. Black-throated Green Warbler: last Syr, StMC 1 June. Blackburnian Warbler: last StMC 1 June. Pine Warbler: juv Maple Hill 22 July is new nesting site. Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SP 25 Aug. Blackpoll Warbler: last Syr, StMC 1 June. Black-and-white Warbler: arr SP 1 Aug. Am. Redstart: last Syr 1 June. No. Water-thrush: arr SP 28 July. Louisiana Waterthrush: adult feeding young Point Rock fills gap between s. Tug Hill and Adirondacks populations. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** male patrolling large area w. of Camillus 21 June (FGS, PDeB, JH) not found next week, first Regional summer record. Mourning Warbler: arr SP 25 Aug. Hooded Warbler: good numbers LOL. Wilson's Warbler: arr SP 23 Aug. Canada Warbler: last StMC 1 June, arr SP 23 Aug.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Henslow's Sparrow: very scarce, only five sites reported, most

singles and only one site (n. of Little Falls) new. White-throated Sparrow: one near Jordan 28 June out of place. White-crowned Sparrow: Sheds 3 June (RK) record late. Orchard Oriole: nesting confirmed at new site n. of Skaneateles 28 June. Red Crossbill: four widely scattered reports of singles after 8 July.

Educational Communications and Studies, Upstate Medical Center,
766 Irving Ave., Syracuse, New York 13210

REGION 6 – ST. LAWRENCE

KENNETH L. CROWELL and GERALD A. SMITH

Once more regional reports seem to have been eclipsed – and rightly so – by heroic efforts to complete the Atlas. Thus much of our summer report consists of shorebird and waterfowl sightings from ElDorado Beach Preserve. In addition, we boast of one provisional regional first, one second sighting, two first breeding records, two species normally restricted to the Adirondacks, and two species well out-of-season. Weatherwise, in our Region, June was glorious. Temperatures ran a few degrees above normal and precipitation was one-third lower than normal. There were, however, two periods when night temperatures in the 30's and 40's must have had a severe impact on nesting. Monthly low temperatures (low 30's) occurred 1 June, followed by four cool days. Then ensued a week of warm weather with monthly highs reaching the high 80's on 8-11 June. The last third of the month was cool, especially 20-23 June. The Region was spared the flood-producing rains which fell elsewhere 17-18 June, but a front the 24-25th brought 1-2 inches of rain. July temperatures were about normal with monthly highs in the mid-80's occurring the 14-16th and lows in the mid-40's falling on the 25-26th. Precipitation was as much as two inches below normal. There were only three to six rainy days in July, with maximum rainfall of over an inch falling on 5 July. August was warm and rainfall was about normal with measurable precipitation falling on 18 days. On 11 August some localities received a cloudburst of almost three inches of rain.

Water levels were very high in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in June and July, adversely affecting nesting of Common Terns and early migrant shorebirds. Flights in July were late and numbers low for most species. With receding water levels in August, flights were stronger and exceeded the poor ones of 1983. There were substantial movements of early migrants such as Eastern Kingbirds, *Empidonax* flycatchers and Yellow Warblers at ElDorado the last half of July. In addition to shorebird and waterfowl data compiled by Gerry Smith, detailed notes from Marilyn Badger in the Louisville-Massena area and Kevin Griffith for nine days (27 June to 4 July) in Canton, Clare, and Pierrepont allow comparisons of relative abundances of species which may be used in determining trends. Such comparisons will be made in the species accounts. A total of 161 species was reported for the period. With regard to species expanding ranges, we are alarmed at the breeding of Mute Swan in Jefferson Co. and the continued increase in Canada Goose populations. First nesting of House Finch in Massena

and possible nesting of Northern Mockingbird in Jefferson Co. are significant. Turkey Vulture is abundant in central St. Lawrence Co. Red-bellied Woodpecker and Tufted Titmouse were reported only from Henderson, and there were no Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Species for which there were few reports (not necessarily low populations) included accipiters, Whip-poor-wills and owls. There were no reports of Ring-necked Duck, Pectoral Sandpiper, or Scarlet Tanager. Concern was expressed for breeding levels of Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, and Blue-winged Teal. There were few boreal species reported, but Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Lincoln's Sparrow were noteworthy. Most species of Special Concern expected in the Region, including Sedge Wren, were reported. There were good reports for all grassland sparrows. Of particular significance were one or two migrant Peregrine Falcons, confirmed breeding of Loggerhead Shrike and Prairie Warbler on the New Limerick Cedars Preserve of The Nature Conservancy in Jefferson Co., second (?) regional sighting of Blue-winged Warbler and an American Tree Sparrow way out-of-season. A final rarity was a probable regional record for Sandhill Crane.

Contributors: Marilyn Badger, John and Susan Barthelme, Sheila and Bob Cerwonka, Lee B. Chamberlaine, Ken Crowell, John I. Green, Kevin Griffith, Mildred and Everett Howard, Kenneth Karwowski, Bob Long, Allan Newell, Ellen Rocco, Bruce Schneider, Gerald A. Smith, Nicholas Smith, J. VanRiet, Robert and June Walker, D. V. Weseloh, James Winterbottom.

Abbreviations: EDB—ElDorado Beach Preserve; Jeff. Co.—Jefferson County; PR—Perch River Wildlife Mgt. Area; St. Law. Co. — St. Lawrence County; SLR—St. Lawrence River; ULL—Upper and Lower Lakes WMA; WBBS—Waddington Breeding Bird Survey, 13 June; WH—Wilson Hill WMA.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: one PRWMA 3 July. Two adults in breeding plumage regularly noted on SLR from Morristown west; one pair with two chicks near Chippewa Bay SLR in June (KK); pair with three young ULL 18 July, first nesting at ULL (MEH, JW); pair with two, then one, young Rainbow Falls Reservoir, Colton (JIG); pair Payne L., Lewis Co. 18 July (JW). Pied-billed Grebe: six young with four adult PRWMA 9 July (LBC); two ULLWMA 3 July only reports; the current status of this species as a local breeder, particularly in the large marshes along L. Ontario, needs clarification. Double-crested Cormorant: one ULL (JVR) and 736 nests Little Galloo Island 27 July (DVW) is testimony to the astonishing growth of this colony during the last decade but 24 dead young, possibly the victims of human vandalism, is disturbing; 600+ mostly young Little Galloo on 10 Aug. (LBC). This species is now recorded daily in many L. Ontario and SLR areas; at EDB counts were 15-50 per day in June, 5-15 per day June-12 Aug., scarce thereafter at one to four per day thru; five PRWMA in Aug. (C. Dean) are noteworthy and uncommon inland. Least Bittern: one PRWMA 9 July (LBC), one ULL 3 July. Am. Bittern: two Louisville-Massena (MB) and one ULL (KLG) only reports. Great Blue Heron: Ironsides Island SLR colony now exceeds 600 nests (GRW), a crash in numbers nesting there is likely in the not too distant future due to heron-caused destruction of nest trees; most reports two to four per day in scattered areas. Cattle Egret: apparently still nesting on Little Galloo I. with five there 10 Aug. (LBC). Green-backed Heron: seemed scarce; two to four per day scattered locations; interesting report of one struck by a probable Goshawk in early Aug. at Canton (AG). Black-crowned Night-Heron: two to four per day EDB in June, few thereafter; 12 Little Galloo I. 10 Aug. Mute Swan: pair produced five young at PRWMA (C. Devan). Canada Goose: 184 banded PRWMA 5 July (LBC); five EDB 6 Aug., probably bred nearby. The ubiquitous presence of this species in pest proportions along the eastern SLR is testimony to the questionable wisdom of establishing artificial breeding populations in many areas. Wood Duck: poorly reported or scarce? Five to ten per day Henderson in

Aug. (LBC), one 18 Aug. EDB; pair Pierrepont 10 June only reports. Green-winged Teal: arr one EDB 30 July, five to ten per day EDB thereafter, max 20 EDB 6 Aug; not reported elsewhere. Am. Black Duck: two singles EDB prior to 20 July; one to five per day EDB thereafter, max nine EDB 9 Aug. Mallard: ubiquitous in suitable habitat; four to six per day EDB 1 June to 20 July; seven to ten per day there to 31 July, 30-80 per day EDB Aug. with max 105 on 14 Aug. No. Pintail: arr one EDB 14 Aug. then one per day thru. Blue-winged Teal: this is a species to watch closely in our area; Chamberlaine comments that they are not nesting in former numbers; at EDB none nested for the first time in four years of daily observations; post-breeding arr there three 28 July, numbers at EDB in Aug. of 15-40 per day are better than 1983 but a far cry from the hundreds of 1981-82; max at EDB are 65 on 20 Aug., and 66 on 24 Aug. Gadwall: fairly common breeder on many small islands throughout the SLR (GAS); three EDB 25 Aug. only other report. Am. Wigeon: two-five per day SLR between WHWMA and Massena during June-July; none elsewhere. Greater Scaup: one EDB 1-8 June is only report. Com. Merganser: 9-12 per day on three days between 18-31 Aug. only reports. Red-breasted Merganser: one ULL (JVR), tantalizing!

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: still increasing in lowland sectors throughout; two-four per day at many locations, max 17 Clear L., Jeff. Co. 12 June (RJW) undoubtedly near a roost. Osprey: pair nested at PRWMA (LBC) success of the attempt unknown; arr one 16 Aug EDB. Bald Eagle: the Jeff. Co. nest fledged two young including one blind in one eye; one bird present thru with the fate of the other unknown. No. Harrier: one to four per day throughout lowland areas in Jeff. and St. Law. Co.; subjective impressions indicate Jeff. Co. population is at least stable and may be increasing (GAS); arr one EDB dunes 10 Aug.; nest with three feathered young DeKalb in mid-Aug. (ER). Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk: none reported, probably due to secretive behavior rather than real scarcity. Goshawk: Canton 12 Aug. taking Rock Dove from barn (JSB). Red-shouldered Hawk: pair Winona, Town of Lorraine, Jeff. Co. (RJW) 4 June are probable breeders. Broad-winged Hawk: arr two imm. EDB 10 Aug. where they definitely do not breed. **PEREGRINE FALCON:** An extraordinary summer report is an imm at EDB 21 July (GAS). Much too early for a northern migrant, it must be assumed this was a wandering hacked bird perhaps from hatching program in southern Ontario as this program was the source of a bird "found dead" in DePeyster, St. Law. Co. this summer (LBC); the bands from this bird were turned in by an unknown person, suggesting that the bird was shot. Ring-necked Pheasant: two Massena 3 June. Gray Partridge: two Massena 17 June, 2 Massena 2 July (MB). Wild Turkey: one nest near Barnes Corners Lewis Co. (BS); only report. Virginia Rail: one Browns Corners near Alexandria Bay, Jeff. Co. 2 July; one ULL 2 July (KG); nine Massena 1 & 4 June (MB). Sora: one Massena 1 June only report (MB). Am. Coot: nine ULL 12 Aug. (MEH). Com. Moorhen: good numbers of young at PRWMA (LBC). **SANDHILL CRANE:** sighting near Chippewa Creek, Town of Hammond on five days 9-14 June, "call of the bird is loud enough to be heard in the house; it flies with neck outstretched" (A. Newell); one (same bird?) seen on Chippewa Bay Rd., Hammond, 20-22 July in field with small pond nearby by D. Morley and others (LBC), are there previous regional sightings? All the following shorebird data are from EDB by GAS unless otherwise noted. Black-bellied Plover: arr one 29 July, none thereafter until four 18 Aug. none thru, max 18 17 Aug. Killdeer: did not breed at EDB for the first time in four years, probably due to high water levels; arr two 22 July, two to four per day thru with max six to eight per day. Greater Yellowlegs; arr one 13 July, six singles thru 16 Aug. none thereafter; scarce as usual at EDB. Lesser Yellowlegs: arr one 6 July, late; total of four thru 20 July is very low; three to five per day thru 31 July; rapid increase in numbers to 12-25 per day; most of Aug. max 44 on 16 Aug. and 46 on 17 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: very scarce - adult 2 Aug. is only report. Spotted Sandpiper: only one/two pair breeding EDB where three to four usually breed, probably due to the impact of high lake levels; three to four per day thru 20 July; six to 12 per day 21 July-16 Aug; four to six per day thereafter. Upland Sandpiper: scattered reports of breeders at four locations. Whimbrel: one 22 July is only

report. Ruddy Turnstone: arr three 27 July late; two to three per day 27 July - 15 Aug.; generally a poor adult flight followed by a good imm flight. Red Knot: arr one 21 Aug.; one to three per day thereafter, all juveniles. Sanderling: arr six 29 July - late; most counts two to eight per day thereafter; max 14 on 12 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr one 21 July two weeks late, 40-100 per day first half of Aug., rapid increase to 200-350 per day thereafter; max 410 on 12 Aug. and 510 on 17 Aug. Least Sandpiper: arr two 27 July is nearly a full month late, usually arrives by 1-4 July; two to eight per day thru 9 Aug., 10-15 per day thru 20 Aug., max 37 on 12 Aug. and 27 on 16 Aug. White-rumped Sandpiper: singles 12 and 25 Aug. Baird's Sandpiper: one 18 Aug., one 25 Aug., two 26 Aug., one 28 Aug. are only reports. Pectoral Sandpiper: **none** for period extraordinary. Stilt Sandpiper: two per day 12 thru 16 Aug. only reports. Short-billed Dowitcher: arr one 28 July, one to four per day 12 Aug. thru max four 29 Aug. Com. Snipe: scattered breeders in several areas; singles at EDB mid-Aug. Wilson's Phalarope: one 12-14 Aug. and two 17 Aug. are only reports. Franklin's Gull: adult in partial breeding plumage EDB 6 Aug. (GAS). Little Gull: adult EDB 29 Aug. (GAS). Bonaparte's Gull: two 22 July and one there 1 July; none thereafter until two 29 July, two to ten per day intermittently thereafter until 23 Aug. 15-20 per day during the last week of Aug. Ring-billed Gull: evidence suggests a poor breeding year for Little Galloo I. birds (LBC, GAS); young of the year were late in appearing at EDB and generally were present in reduced numbers. Herring Gull: two to 12 per day along Lake Ontario. Great Black-backed Gull: two to six per day EDB thru. Caspian Tern: two to five per day June-July, numbers increasing to 10-20 per day in Aug.; max 25 on 20 Aug. and 33 on 26 Aug. Com. Tern: one to four per day June-July; increased numbers in Aug. with counts 10-20 per day to late Aug., max 56 on 26 Aug. Forster's Tern: one 6 Aug. Black Tern: one to two per day 1-June-20 July, none thereafter to 6 Aug., six to ten per day 7-14 Aug., none thereafter; small colonies persist at ULL and WHWMA.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Black-billed Cuckoo: singles 23 June to 13 July from Risier, Depauville, Alexandria and Alex. Bay (RJW), and Clare 29 and 30 June (KG). Great Horned Owl: reports from Massena and Louisville in early July and a pair calling in Canton in mid-Aug. Com. Nighthawk: one Stony Pt. 25 Aug. Whip-poor-will: two Clare 13 June. Chimney Swift: gone 18 Aug. (LBC). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: pair Pierrepont June, others gone from Clare, Massena and Louisville. Red-headed Woodpecker: pair Ogdensburg early June (NS), pairs EDB thru (GS), singles Sacket's Harbor 7 June, Perch Lake 3 July, Lakeview WMA 8 July. Red-bellied Woodpecker: one Henderson 23, 26 July. Relative numbers of common woodpeckers recorded by MB and KG were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 13, Downy seven, Hairy three.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: one Sevey's Corners, Colton 2 June (MDiG). E. Wood-Pewee: "down from last year in Henderson" (LBC), eight adults, three FY Louisville in early July (MB); total of two 27 June to 4 July (KG). **YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER:** one Clare 28 June (KG) - unusual at low elevations during breeding season, listed as hypothetical in Region by Gordon. Least Flycatcher: 17 total (KG). Willow Flycatcher: no reports. E. Phoebe: 17 total (KG); "still reduced numbers" (LBC). Great Crested Flycatcher: three FY Potsdam 23 July; six total (KG). E. Kingbird: number strong throughout region flight of 110! EDB 16 Aug. (GS). Horned Lark: "a few in corn country of southern Jeff. Co." (LBC). All species of swallows were reported. Purple Martin: 70 with fledged young in Ogdensburg (MB) and 20 Waddington in June. Tree Swallow: albinistic individual observed several times Brown's Bridge, Colton, in mid-July (MEH). Tufted Titmouse: four young being fed by adults Henderson 26 June, two adults thru (LBC). Winter Wren: one Brasher Falls (JVR), unusual in SLR Valley; also from Parishville, Sevey's Corners and Blake Reservoir, Town of Colton; and Winona, Town of Lorraine, 4 June. Sedgwick Wren: one singing male Brier Hill 2 July, two territorial males near Hickory Lake, Macomb 30 June - all in uncut hay fields (RL). Golden-crowned Kinglet: four Clare 27 June (KG). Veery: less common than Wood Thrush in St. Law. lowlands, MB reports ten Veerys and 12 Wood Thrushes while KG found 16 Veerys and four Wood Thrushes

in foothills; in comparison KG found nine Hermit Thrushes. Am. Robin: partial albino (grayish-white) Heuvelton mid-June (HA). Gray Catbird: one "singing call of Whip-poor-will" Clear Lake, Alexandria 12 July (RJW). No. Mockingbird: pair nest building Town of Lyme, Jeff. Co. 23 June (RJW); probably first regional breeding record. Brown Thrasher: down from previous two years (LC), four WBBS, two (KG). Cedar Waxwing: increasing mid-June thru; nesting in Canton 4 July (KG). Loggerhead Shrike: none in previous breeding areas (RL); one Lyme 23 June (RJW); "pair raised one young" Limerick Cedars Preserve, Jeff. Co. (GS). Yellow-throated Vireo: one Sacket's Harbor 7 June (RJW); two feeding young ULL (JVR); adult FY near Hickory Lake, Macomb 27 June (RL). Warbling Vireo: down in Henderson (LBC); four WBBS. Warbling Vireo seems to be replaced by Red-eyed in forests of foothills — MB found one Solitary in Louisville and 26 Warbling and 20 Red-eyed along SLR, while KG found three Solitary and four Warbling to 40 Red-eyed in foothills. Eighteen species of warblers were reported. **BLUE-WINGED WARBLER**: one Depauville 26 June (RJW); may be first regional sighting since 1968 (Gordon). Does this mark the beginning of the invasion of our maturing old fields by this species and its replacement of the Golden-winged as has occurred to the south? Golden-winged Warbler: one Haight's Cors., Lorraine; one Pierrepont 6 June. **PRAIRIE WARBLER**: first regional record of breeding by a pair at Limerick Cedars Preserve, success unknown (GS). Canada Warbler: singing male Black Lake, DePeyster 8 June (RL). Relative numbers of all species recorded by MB along SLR and by KG in foothills respectively were: Yellow 145 (MB), 22 (KG); Chestnut-sided six, 35; Magnolia 0, 20; Black-throated Blue one, two; Yellow-rumped 0, six; Black-throated Green 0, 19; Blackburnian 0, 16; Black-and-white 6, 15; Am. Redstart ten, 13; Ovenbird two, seven; No. Waterthrush 0, 11; Com. Yellowthroat 45; 57.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: No. Cardinal: one Ogdensburg, seven Louisville-Massena (MB). Field Sparrow: 2 WBBS, eight Canton 27 June (KG). **AM. TREE SPARROW**: one Clare 28 June (KG), extraordinary! Field Sparrow: from Massena, WBBS, and Clare. Vesper Sparrow: one WBBS, at least three on territories near Pierrepont town dump (KC). Grasshopper Sparrow: adult with food for young Depauville 25 June, other singles Clayton 26 June; Strough's Crossing 10 July and Hyde Lake 11 July, both Town of Theresa; LaFargeville 14 July (all RJW). Henslow's Sparrow: one Wilkinson Rd., Canton on territory twice in July (JVR); singles Strough's Crossing 10 July, Hyde Lake 11 July (RJW). Lincoln's Sparrow: four Clare 28 June (KG), remarkable! Dark-eyed Junco: 18 including eight nesting Clare (KG). Purple Finch: 16 Pierrepont and Clare (KG), 2 adults, FL Ogdensburg 1 June to 15 July, three Canton thru (MEH); good number Henderson decreasing thru (LBC). House Finch: "explosion in Henderson, over 100 banded since June" (LBC), two pairs Potsdam began courting 16 May, males taking seed at feeder in July, eight young with 4 adults 5 Aug. thru (SRC); several resident pairs in Canton; first breeding in Massena (JVR). Evening Grosbeak: several Sylvan Falls, Parishville, breeding? (JVR); nine Clare 28-30 June (KG).

KLC — RD 4, Box 97, Canton, New York 13617
 GAS — Box 38, Henderson, New York 13650

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

JOHN M. C. PETERSON

To the 30,631 regional Atlas records previously stored, more than twelve thousand (including upgrades to higher breeding codes), were added this summer. Green data sheets were received from more than 450 blocks, representing

an area greater than the total blocks in at least three other regions of the state. Records were provided by assigned observers, over a dozen blockbusters, and the three DEC Adirondack loon survey teams operating from Newcomb, Saranac Lake, and Speculator. Canoeing the shorelines of about 200 lakes and ponds, the survey teams provided especially good information on loons and waterfowl.

Given the experience of the past five years, we can recognize how sketchy our picture of regional - and state - birdlife was prior to this monumental exercise. A review of the 1979 summer season report for this, or for that matter any, region is instructive. Red-shouldered Hawk was not reported in Region 7 in the year prior to the Atlas; since then, observers have noted Red-shoulders in 94 blocks, Confirmed them in 15. Even with data from BBS routes, some common birds fared poorly, as with, "E. Phoebe: about 14 reported." Since then, phoebes have been recorded in 373 blocks, or an average of 75 new blocks per year, a five-fold increase. One Yellow-throated Vireo and a single Golden-winged Warbler represented those species in summer '79, compared to 24 blocks and 16 blocks, respectively, since then, "About a dozen Mourning Warblers were heard or seen which is good." And it was, but no longer. Observers still seem to have trouble locating this skulker, but the 180 blocks represent a yearly average of 36, for a three-fold improvement over pre-Atlas days. "Field Sparrows are very scarce," was the 1979 assessment, based upon reports received; the 190 blocks in which they have since been recorded should provide some reassurance.

In spite of these gains, many species still remain little understood, and observers are increasingly sensitive to periodic fluctuations of certain birds. We also note that each year finds more observers getting a better grasp of the habits and habitats of several more elusive birds: Lincoln's Sparrows in '82, Tennessee Warblers in '83, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in '84, with resulting great leaps forward in the range maps. The gnawing question, as we await publication of the Atlas of breeding birds of New York State, is "what next?" Without the considerable incentives, psychological and financial, of an Atlas, a return to a much reduced effort seems sure. We hardly expect to hire float planes to visit remote wilderness lakes each year, as we did this summer. Certainly, even if the impetus could be sustained, the regional editor cannot continue to evaluate over ten thousand records annually for each nesting season. During 1985, some of the most experienced Adirondack-Champlain observers will be drawn by the Ontario Atlas to northern reaches of that province, and then over the following five years, to 1990, to Quebec province, or other states. Our regional burst has been glorious, but perhaps short-lived. A total of about 200 species was reported, of which all but eight are considered breeding birds for Atlas purposes. Rareties, of which there were many, included Tricolored Heron (the second in as many years), Franklin's Gull, and Caspian Terns. The summer weather was mostly moderate, with the usual aberrations that found observers in remote places drenched, forced to wade rivers and swollen dams, and huddled in the lee of rocky, windswept summits. By now, such meteorological events are expected, and only add flavor. The regional coordinator extends deepest thanks to all who took part in this remarkable Atlas experience. We've left a solid legacy to future students of Adirondack-Champlain breeding birds, and that we managed to enter all 689 blocks to obtain 100% coverage is an achievement in which we can all take pride. See you in Ontario, or Quebec, or wherever we can find virgin blocks and fresh field cards!

Contributors and initialed observers: Jeff Allen, MaryAnne Allen, Merry Baker, Thomas Barber, Dirck & Mary Benson, Robert Booth, Les Borland, Laurie Brothers, Bev Brown, Geoffrey Carleton, Ann & Walter Chapman, Paul Chapson, Greenleaf T. Chase, Dewey & Joan Clark, Andy Clauson, Ken Clum, Pat Cole, Dean Cook, Charlotte Daley, Charlie Delehanty, Sam Droegge, Tom Dudones, Wyn Frahn, Gladys & Greg Furness, Mark Gretch, Bea & Cassius Guyette, Robert Hagar, Betty Hicks, James Hohman, Gordon Howard, Anne Hungerford, Selma Isil, Frank Jewett, Elsbeth Johnson, Suzy Johnson, William Kreuger, Ignatius Lacombe, Ferdinand LaFrance, Sally Laughlin, Burgess Lawrence, Gary Lee, George List, Theodore Mack, Norman Mason, Nancy Master, Mike Maurer, Dorothy McIlroy, Margaret & Robert McKinney, Gordon Meade, Charles Mitchell, Dan Nickerson, Chet Orzech, John Peterson, Alan Pistorius, Doris Plunkett, Ted Potter, Anne Powers, Gary Randorf, Betty Rist, Paul Rivest, Nancy Rogers, Jerry Rosenband, David Rutkowski, Carole Slatkin, Dean Spaulding, Chris Spies, Langdon Stevenson, Timothy Stiles, Luella Stout, Jan Trzeciak, Cecelia Wojciukiewicz, David Yando.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loons were recorded in 218 regional Atlas blocks, Confirmed in 91, during the five-year Atlas. Recognizing that some blocks have several breeding pairs and that loons also nest in at least two other regions, this is in general agreement with earlier (1977-80) DEC estimates of a statewide population of 150-200 nesting pairs. Some of the 22 nests of Double-crested Cormorants on Islands A and B of the Four Brothers, L. Champlain, still had young 4 Aug., when an estimated 350-400 cormorants had gathered at the islands (LS). Other cormorant sightings included one on Clockmill Pd., Hamilton Co., 12 June (DEC); three flying into Allen's Bay, Clinton Co., 14 June (WK); and one on Mirror L., Essex Co., 29-31 Aug. (JH,NM). Another regional Great Blue heronry is located at King's Bay WMA (MG). One or two Great Egrets frequented the Allen's Bay area from late May through early July (WK), with three there 24 Aug. (LB); a pair was also at Chazy Landing 17 July (MG). [Note: On 17 June, three nests of Great Egret with young were found on Dickerson Island, near Dundee, Quebec, with seven still present 8 July.] Allen's Bay had a **TRICOLORED HERON** 5 June, for the second regional record. The same productive bay had Cattle Egrets from early May to 11 July, when five were present (WK). Two adult Black-crowned Night-Herons with three young were seen in a buttonbush swamp at Point au Fer 8 July (MG). On 27 June, along the Lake Shore Rd. at Chazy Landing, a No. Pintail with young, Gadwall with young, and two pairs of Am. Wigeons were seen (MG). Although Ring-necked Ducks again nested successfully at Tupper Lake Marsh and several other locations, a caution is raised since this species has only been Confirmed in 13 blocks in five years, compared with the 18 sites over a wider area published in Bull a decade ago. Female Com. Goldeneyes were on Kit Fox Pd. and Little Long Pd. 4 Aug. (SI, JP), and broods were reported from Follensby Jr. Pd. and Wolf Pd. (GM); in addition to the interior Adirondack population (7 CO blocks), this diving duck nests all along the Clinton Co. shoreline of L. Champlain (also 7 CO).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: About a dozen Turkey Vultures, an Osprey, and a Red-tailed Hawk were at the Palisades north of Westport 5 Aug., but the highlight of the boat trip was a female adult Peregrine Falcon dismembering prey on a snag at the top of this sheer escarpment along L. Champlain (G & GF, EJ, JP). A pair had first been spotted at the cliffs 27 July (PC, B & CG, MM) and the male seen 4 Aug. (JA, TR). Coincidentally, a banded imm, presumed Ontario-hacked, was seen just south of Westport this summer. Other adult Peregrine pairs seemed attached to sites at Catamount Mt., Chapel Pd., and Wilmington Notch, and although not confirmed during the course of the Atlas, nesting appears imminent. Spruce Grouse: now 18 blocks, five CO. Virginia Rail: 33 blocks, 9 CO. Sora: 16 blocks, 2 CO. For the second consecutive summer of high lake water levels, only 11 shorebird species, six of them migrants, were reported. Black-bellied Plover: two Allen's Bay 5 June (WK). Semipalmated Plover: Chazy Landing 21 June (MG); Westport 20 Aug. (GC). Lesser Yellowlegs: Chazy Landing 3 Aug. (MG). Solitary Sandpiper: widely reported from early July. Upland Sandpiper; now an unprecedented 42 blocks, 10 CO! Semipalmated

Sandpiper: Chazy Landing 21 June and 3 Aug. Least Sandpiper: five, Chazy Landing 3 Aug. (MG); four on a floating bog mat island on the Hamilton Co. side of Low's L. 17 Aug. (SI, JP). A juvenile **FRANKLIN'S GULL** at Westport 11 July provides a first regional and Adirondack Park record (GC, EJ). Bonaparte's Gulls arr. Monty's Bay 24 July; max 160 Westport 28 Aug. Two of the pink-bellied Ring-billed Gulls from Young I., Vermont, were spotted as far west as the Belmont landfill in Franklin Co. on 2 June (NR), and there were numerous other sightings from Clinton and Essex Counties. A second-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Port Henry 7 June, with Great Black-backed Gull nearby for comparison (GC, TB, NM). A lone Great Black-backed was seen from June thru 8 Aug. in northern Clinton Co. (CO). **CASPIAN TERNS** made a good showing, with one at Port Henry pier with a pack of Ring-bills 13 June (GC) for a second Essex Co. record, and three at Treadwell Bay 25 June (WK) and 26 June (SJ, WK) for the second Clinton Co. record.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Possible-breeding Rock Doves were noted in Hamilton Co. at Speculator and Wells. Great Horned Owl: 112 blocks, 12 CO. Barred Owl: 214 blocks, 12 CO. Short-eared Owl: one Deer Pond Marsh 23 July (CD). No. Saw-whet Owl: 58 blocks, 7 CO. Com. Nighthawk: 56 blocks, 6 CO. Whip-poor-will: only 2 of 97 blocks are in Hamilton Co. Red-bellied Woodpecker continued to be "seen off and on all summer" in Ticonderoga (DC). Red-headed Woodpecker: 31 blocks, six CO. Three-toed Woodpecker: 16 blocks, five CO. Black-backed Woodpecker: a satisfying 70 blocks, 17 CO.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: 257 blocks, 16 CO. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: the 101 blocks (up from 2 in 1980), with 13 CO, serve to define the general range, but unfamiliarity with song and call by observers leaves many blocks empty where the bird should occur. Horned Lark also remains under-recorded, at only 35 blocks, 12 CO. No. Rough-winged Swallow is undoubtedly more abundant than the 72 blocks, 17 CO, suggest. Gray Jay: 60 blocks, 25 CO, with the first Essex Co. record of the Atlas near Boreas Ponds (A & WC). Com. Raven was recorded in 181 blocks, with 32 nesting locations known in this region. Boreal Chickadees were not found anywhere in Clinton Co., although noted in 102 blocks in the other three counties, with 31 of those Confirmed. Finally, though, one of the 133 blocks with Ruby-crowned Kinglets is in Clinton Co., at Churubusco Bog, just a few kilometers below the Quebec border (DN, JP). The high-altitude Gray-cheeked Thrush surely occurs in more blocks, but the 29 where it was recorded over the past five summers will have to serve as indicators of the known range. European Starling: 352 blocks, 256 CO, 51% of blocks surveyed.

VIREOS-WARBLED: Yellow-throated Vireo: 24 blocks, four CO. Philadelphia Vireo: an impressive 30 blocks, eight CO! Golden-winged Warbler: now 15 blocks, with the first Franklin Co. records added from the Towns of Brandon and Moira (JR, CS). Tennessee Warbler: now 22 blocks, 3 CO; two migrants Moriah 6 June; migrant Elizabethtown 25 Aug. (GC). Nashville Warbler: max 6 Elizabethtown 26 Aug. Magnolia Warbler: Moriah 4 June is considered a migrant (GC). Cape May Warbler was never Confirmed during the Atlas, although recorded in some 15 blocks; migrant Elizabethtown 25 Aug. (GC). Black-throated Green Warbler: presumed migrant Moriah 3 June (GC). Bay-breasted Warbler: 23 blocks, with an adult carrying food for young at West L., Canada Lakes, 10:15 a.m. on 29 June, for the long-awaited first - and only - CO of the NYS Atlas (GL); migrant Elizabethtown 25 Aug. (GC). Blackpoll Warbler: 82 blocks, 11 CO; found in Clinton Co. on Averill Peak (D & JC); at West L., Hamilton Co., Blackpolls were both visiting a nest site with food and building a nest near the FY Bay-breasted (GL). Black-and-white Warbler: max 5 Elizabethtown 25 Aug. (GC). Louisiana Waterthrush: several of the 20 blocks, seven CO, actually contain several territories. Mourning Warbler: 180 blocks, with 50 CO. Wilson's Warbler; male in a yard near Gibson Corners, Clinton Co., 12 June (PC) could have been a late migrant; male in a small area of black spruce and marsh just off the access road to Bartlett Carry Club, Franklin Co., 22 June (TD) is considered a breeding bird, as is a male in sedgy, grassy beaver meadow studded with black spruce on the southwest

side of the appropriately named Wilson Pond trail off Rt. 22, beyond Brady Pond, Hamilton Co., 10 July (SL, BR).

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Clay-colored Sparrow: four blocks, none CO, although a singing male disturbed near Westville, northern Franklin Co., 27 June-2 July (JR, CS), now places this species in three contiguous blocks near the Quebec border in as many years. Although "Vesper Sparrows were in fair numbers," back in 1979, they were judged "hard to find in the last few years." Since then, vespers have been found in 75 Atlas blocks, CO in 14, despite the unfamiliarity of many observers with this sparrow and sketchy coverage of many blocks with suitable habitat. Grasshopper Sparrow: 12 blocks, 2 CO, provides a pleasant regional discovery. Lincoln's Sparrow: known from only 14 breeding locations in the region a decade ago, this species has been recorded in 163 blocks, 61 CO, from southern Hamilton Co. to the Canadian border; this remains the Region 7 success story. Rusty Blackbird: 89 blocks, 37 CO. House Finch: now 63 blocks, 24 CO, spreading toward the interior. The first bumper crop of white spruce cones of the Atlas gave the crossbill maps a much-needed final boost. Red Crossbill: 24 blocks, one CO. White-winged Crossbill: 18 blocks, one CO; this summer's records included a subadult male Mountain View L. 25 July, pair L. Clear Outlet 1 Aug., subadult male Madawaska disturbed by Gray Jays 21 Aug. (SI, JP), singing male Bloomingdale Bog 25 Aug. (A & WC, EJ, JP), and flock Helldiver Pd. late Aug. (GL). Evening Grosbeak: 157 blocks, 23 CO, with many of the 1984 records from eastern Hamilton Co. Finally, House Sparrows are still much less widely distributed than starlings, having shown up in 214 blocks, or 31% of those surveyed, with 141 of those CO.

Discovery Farm, R.D. 1, Elizabethtown, New York 12932

REGION 8 – HUDSON-MOHAWK

BILL COOK

The breeding range of the Yellow-throated Warbler made an amazing leap north this summer. Previously its range extended from the Gulf of Mexico to southern New Jersey, but in 1984 it was found nesting at two locations in mid-latitudes of New York. The Atlas project in its fifth and final year of field work has, with this bird, added a fifth new species to the breeding avifauna of the state. The Region 8 nest was found high in a White Pine in Cairo, Greene Co. in June and the birds continued to be observed through August.

The tiny hamlet of Harlemlville in Columbia Co. became a focus of attention for the region when a male Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered breeding with a Chipping Sparrow. Hybrid offspring were produced, straining our definition of the species concept once again. Two of the three eggs hatched and the young were banded.

Black-backed Woodpecker, a new regional breeding species, was added by Dick Guthrie while atlassing near Puffer Pond in Warren Co. Also in Warren Co. blockbusters recorded probable breeding for Philadelphia Vireo and Guthrie found Northern Parula along the Sacandaga River. Nesting Mourning Warbler in Columbia Co. is a first for that county. Olive-sided Flycatchers continue to be found by Atlas workers in the Catskills. A territorial male was observed in

Lanesville in July. Orchard Oriole has been added to the list of breeding birds in Columbia Co. A family of four, with two fledglings being fed, was sighted in Stuyvesant on 1 August. A Rufous Hummingbird visiting the home garden of Jack and Jacky Cook in Castleton may become the first record for the state if accepted by NYSARC. For the third year in a row small numbers of male Tennessee Warblers have shown up in Albany in mid-July and then molted. Scott Terrill wonders how widespread this early migration and molt is. Perhaps the most unexpected migrant shorebird at Basic Creek this season was a Wilson's Phalarope. White-rumped and Western Sandpipers were also well-represented.

The Bald Eagle hacking program is underway at Alcove Reservoir in Albany Co. and gives hope of restoring our national symbol to the capitol district. On a negative note, cuckoo numbers are way down presumably due to the lack of a major gypsy moth outbreak this year. Positive trends include increased numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. An observer of a hummingbird fledgling reports that the plumage of the young bird was all dark brown or black when first seen. A week later the bird's back began to show the emerald green color of the adult and gradually replaced the dark color.

The weather this summer was perhaps more humid than normal. Even though stream levels were down by the end of August it rained nearly every week in Columbia Co. and vegetation remained lush all summer. The Jenny Lake summer was described as hot and humid with far fewer thunderstorms than normal. Cold fronts were lacking and birding was poor. A superabundance of cones however should provide a high winter survival rate for winter finches.

Good birding and may your Christmas Bird Counts be comfortably engaged with few wraps and many raptors.

Contributors: Ken Able, Bill Cook, Richard P. Guthrie, Jon Powell, Ed Reilly, Scott Terrill, Henry G. Williams and Robert P. Yunick.

LOONS-DUCKS: Pied-billed Grebe: Chatham June; Queechy L 20 Aug. Double-crested Cormorant: one Basic Creek 24-30 Aug. Great Blue Heron: 34 Basic Creek 14 Aug. Great Egret: one Basic Creek 14-30 Aug.; three Hudson 19 Aug. Snowy Egret: two Basic Creek 14 Aug. Green-backed Heron: one Basic Creek 14 Aug. Canada Goose: 100 Hollowville 26 Aug. Wood Duck: 30 Basic Creek 14 Aug. Green-winged Teal: max six Basic Creek 15 Aug. Am. Black Duck: one Hoag's Corners 11 July. Mallard: at least two broods at Jenny L. Blue-winged Teal: max 40 Basic Creek 30 Aug. Ring-necked Duck: Merwin's Fishing Preserve thru. Hooded Merganser: one Puffer Pond 31 July. A female Com. or Red-breasted Merganser was seen for the second consecutive summer at Jenny L. but with no evidence of breeding.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Turkey Vulture: suspected nesting in Corinth area (RY). Osprey: one Copake 29 July. Bald Eagle: Stockport 25 Aug. No. Harrier: Castleton 20 Aug. Sharp-shinned Hawk: seven reports thru. Cooper's Hawk: four reports from Knox, Ghent and Castleton all in late Aug. No. Goshawk: nesting at Stony Creek, Warren Co. (RY). Red-shouldered Hawk: subadult So. Westerlo 15 June (KA). Broad-winged Hawk: six reports thru. Red-tailed Hawk: 15 reports from Columbia Co. Am. Kestrel: max five Hoag's Corners 11 July. Ring-necked Pheasant: ten reports Columbia Co. June-July. Ruffed Grouse: female with five half grown chicks Averill Park 10 July; 12 other reports thru. Wild Turkey: six reports from Austerlitz, Nassau and Canaan thru. Lesser Golden-Plover: one adult Basic Creek 11-15 Aug. Semipalmated Plover: max 30 Basic Creek 15 Aug. Killdeer: max 40 Basic Creek 29 July-11 Aug. Greater Yellowlegs: max five Basic Creek 11 Aug. Lesser Yellowlegs:

max 25 Basic Creek 11-12 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: max 20 Basic Creek 21 July. Spotted Sandpiper: two Columbiaville 17 July; two Basic Creek 24 July thru; one Jenny L July-Aug. Ruddy Turnstone: two Basic Creek 21 July; one 20 Aug. Sanderling: one Basic Creek 21 July-12 Aug. Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 500 Basic Creek 11-15 Aug. Western Sandpiper: three Basic Creek 11-30 Aug. Least Sandpiper: max 180 Basic Creek 21 July. White-rumped Sandpiper: max ten Basic Creek 12 Aug. Pectoral Sandpiper: max 40 Basic Creek 20 Aug. Stilt Sandpiper: two adults Basic Creek 21 July and two juv. 11 Aug. Short-billed Dowitcher: max 20 Basic Creek 20 Aug. Com. Snipe: one E. Schodack 3 July; one Basic Creek 14 Aug. Am. Woodcock: Ghent and Old Chatham 4 July. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE**: juv. Basic Creek 26 July. Ring-billed, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls were well represented at Colonie landfill all summer. Hatch-year Ring-billed Gulls arrived in mid-July.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Rock Dove: max 20 Cheviot 1 June. Mourning Dove: Adirondack population increasing, 14 Jenny L 28 July. Black-billed Cuckoo: one Lanesville 19 July. Com. Barn Owl: Chatham 7 Aug. E. Screech-Owl: max two New Baltimore 14 Aug. Great Horned Owl: Austerlitz 3 July. Barred Owl: two Jenny L 23 June-4 July; two fledglings Burden L 7 July; two 13th L 30 July. Com. Nighthawk: six Coxsackie 21 Aug. Chimney Swift: one Luther 5 July; one Twin Mt. 22 July. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 36 reports from Columbia and Rensselaer Cos. **RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD**: Castleton 26-27 Aug. (J & J Cook *vide* ER). Belted Kingfisher: max two Basic Creek 14 Aug. Red-headed Woodpecker: Nassau 7-13 July. Red-bellied Woodpecker: male Cheviot 1 June. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 12 reports; max four Twin Mt. 22 July. Downy Woodpecker: 30 reports; max three Luther 5 July. Hairy Woodpecker: 25 reports. **BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER**: first regional breeding record, carrying food for young, Puffer Pond June (RG). No. Flicker: 30 reports. Pileated Woodpecker: Chatham June.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: male defending territory Lanesville 19 July; one Puffer Pond 31 July. E. Wood-Pewee: max three E. Schodack 3 July. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: one Twin Mt. 22 July. Alder Flycatcher: one E. Schodack 3 July; one Hoag's Corners 11 July. Willow Flycatcher: 14 reports thru. Least Flycatcher: six reports. E. Phoebe: 25 reports. Great Crested Flycatcher: eight reports. E. Kingbird: 25 reports. Purple Martin: 30 migrants Corinth 12 Aug. Tree Swallow: 30 reports. No. Rough-winged Swallow: five reports Chatham to Castleton thru. Bank Swallow: max six E. Schodack 3 July. Cliff Swallow: eight reports; max 20 Lanesville 19 July. Barn Swallow: 30 reports. Blue Jay: numbers down at Jenny L. Am. Crow: young fledged at Jenny L 18 June. Com. Raven: one N. River 31 July. Black-capped Chickadee: first fledgling at Schenectady feeder 25 June. Tufted Titmouse: max two Luther 5 July. Red-breasted Nuthatch: nine reports; max four Puffer Pond 31 July. White-breasted Nuthatch: scarce this year at Jenny L. Brown Creeper: six reports. House Wren: 20 reports. Winter Wren: one Lanesville 19 July; four Twin Mt. 22 July; one Puffer Pond 31 July; Ghent 1 Aug; Chatham and Austerlitz July-Aug. Golden-crowned Kinglet: two Puffer Pond 31 July. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Livingston 6 Aug; Ghent 8 Aug.; Stockport 18 Aug.; Valatie and Hoosick 27 Aug. E. Bluebird: six reports Columbia Co. Veery: max five E. Schodack 3 July. Swainson's Thrush: four Twin Mt. 22 July. Hermit Thrush: nine reports; fledgling Petersburg Pass 24 July. Wood Thrush: 25 reports. Am. Robin: max 20 E. Schodack 3 July. Gray Catbird: max 20 E. Schodack 3 July. No. Mockingbird: 20 reports; max four Claverack thru. Brown Thrasher: 12 reports. Cedar Waxwing: max 15 Jenny L. late Aug. European Starling: max 50 Cheviot 1 June.

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: White-eyed Vireo: New Baltimore thru (RG). Solitary Vireo: Austerlitz 7 July; three Twin Mt. 22 July; three Puffer Pond 31 July; Old Chatham 9 Aug. Yellow-throated Vireo: max two Hoag's Corners 11 July. Warbling Vireo: max two E. Schodack 3 July. Philadelphia Vireo: Warren Co. (*vide* RG). Red-eyed Vireo: max ten E. Schodack 3 July. Blue-winged Warbler: max two Cheviot 1 June. Tennessee Warbler: male Berne 12 July; one Hoosick and Ghent 27 Aug. Nashville Warbler: Austerlitz 4 July; four Averill Park 10 July. No. Parula: Warren Co. June (RG). Yellow Warbler: max five Cheviot

1 June. Chestnut-sided Warbler: max four Averill Park 10 July. Magnolia Warbler: four reports; max two Twin Mt. 22 July. Black-throated Blue Warbler: five reports; max six Twin Mt. 22 July. Yellow-rumped Warbler: four reports; max ten Twin Mt. 22 July. Black-throated Green Warbler: five reports; max five Twin Mt. 22 July. Blackburnian Warbler: Austerlitz 6 June-4 July; one Lanesville 19 July; one Berlin 23 July. **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER**: first New York breeding record So. Cairo thru. They were first observed on 6 June by David Gagne of NYSDEC. On 9 June they were observed building a nest. Incubation was observed on 15 June and feeding of young on 1 July. The nest was collected on 21 Aug. under Federal Permit #PRT 2-2027BO held by Eugene McCaffrey. The nest is now in the collection of the Am. Mus. of Nat. Hist. Pine Warbler: Castleton 30 Aug. Prairie Warbler: max two Burden L 7 July. Blackpoll Warbler: ten Twin Mt. 22 July. Cerulean Warbler: New Baltimore thru (RG). Black-and-white Warbler: max ten Hoosick 27 Aug. Am. Redstart: max ten Hoosick 27 Aug. Ovenbird: ten banded Jenny L indicate numbers way down. No. Waterthrush: ten reports thru. Louisiana Waterthrush: two Lanesville 19 July; one Berlin 23 July; one Poolsburg 2 Aug. Mourning Warbler: first record for nesting in Columbia Co. at New Lebanon Center thru July (*vide* ER); one Berne 19 July; male Berlin 23 July. Com. Yellowthroat: max five Cheviot 1 June. Wilson's Warbler: male Potter Hill 27 Aug. Canada Warbler: five reports from high elevations.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: max three Cheviot 1 June. No. Cardinal: max five E. Schodack 3 July. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 20 banded Jenny L. normal but down from last year's 50. Indigo Bunting: max two Livingston 6 Aug. Rufous-sided Towhee: fledgling Petersburg Pass 24 July. Chipping Sparrow: max ten E. Schodack 3 July; long term decline at Jenny L. **CLAY-COLORED SPARROW**: male bred with Chipping Sparrow Harlemlville. Field Sparrow: max three Cheviot 1 June. Vesper Sparrow: Ghent 4 July-27 Aug. Savannah Sparrow: max five E. Schodack 3 July. Song Sparrow: max ten E. Schodack 3 July. Lincoln's Sparrow: Ghent 27 Aug. Swamp Sparrow: max three Cheviot 1 June. White-throated Sparrow: three Averill Park 10 July; one Hoag's Corners 11 July; Old Chatham 17 June-7 July; Jenny L June-July. Dark-eyed Junco: fledglings Twin Mt. 22 July and Petersburg Pass 24 July. Bobolink: max 20 Berlin 23 July. Red-winged Blackbird: max 30 Cheviot 1 June. E. Meadowlark: max two E. Schodack 3 July. Com. Grackle: max 20 Cheviot 1 June; none found in Rensselaer Co. 23-24 July. Brown-headed Cowbird: max ten Cheviot 1 June. Orchard Oriole: first Columbia Co. breeding record Stuyvesant 1 Aug. (BC). No. Oriole: male still singing at Potter Hill 27 Aug. Purple Finch: 153 banded Jenny L. June-Aug. is very low. Few young produced and birds left early. House Finch: max 600 Schenectady. Am. Goldfinch: max ten Cheviot 1 June. Evening Grosbeak: one Twin Mt. 22 July. House Sparrow: max 20 Hoosick 27 Aug. Total 167 species.

Remember Dial-A-Bird for Hudson-Mohawk area birds news at 518-377-9600.

Columbia-Greene Community College, Box 1000, Hudson, New York 12534

REGION 9 – DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Temperatures were cool for the first week of June, and then went into the 90's. By the end of the second week they plummeted to the 60's and never went above the 70's and 80's for the rest of the summer. Rainfall was about twice normal during June and July, but August was quite dry, having only one rainy day. Foliage did not suffer, what with all the ground water left over from the wet spring and early summer; and the forecast is for an excellent fruit and seed crop in the fall.

As the waters of the Hudson are cleaned up, birds which depend upon sight in catching fish are thriving. Cormorants which pursue their prey under water have increased greatly in recent years and had their best season yet this summer. Although the waters are physically cleaner, one can only wonder what the soluble toxins are doing to those birds that depend on these waters for long periods of time.

The white egrets which usually spread northward into the region from their breeding grounds in New Jersey and Region 10 failed to show in any numbers this summer. July and August saw swan populations building along with the ducks and geese on their favorite feeding grounds along the Hudson. Migrant shorebirds were good in both variety and numbers on the sod farms of southern Orange, and the Monk Parakeet is still with us, although barely. Atlassers turned up more breeding Golden-crowned Kinglets than ever before, as well as a good variety of warblers previously thought to be scarce. Things were rather uneventful with the blackbirds, sparrows and finches. Among the rarities listed in the report are: Little Blue Heron, Common Merganser (breeding), Sandhill Crane, Whimbrel, Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Caspian Tern, Kentucky Warbler and Blue Grosbeak.

Contributors and observers cited: Fred and Wava Abbott, John Askildsen, Al Brayton, Robert F. Deed, Liz and Lou Dumont, David Freund, Florence Germond, May and Jim Key, Helen Manson, Frank Murphy, Eleanor Pink, Bob Slechts, John Stellwagen, Robert Terwilliger, John Tramontano, Ed Treacy, Marion VanWagner, Berna Weissman.

Abbreviations: Ashokan-Askokan Reservoir; CB-Cornwall Bay; EP-Esopus Point; KP-Kingston Point; first four or five letters of each County.

LOONS-DUCKS: Com. Loon: usually a small summering population at Ashokan, but nothing there this year. Only report one imm summering at Rondout Res. Double-crested Cormorant: more summering on the Hudson than ever before, two regularly at EP from 19 June, ten or 12 regularly at CB, six flying low over Hudson at Bard Rock 17 Aug., 21 there 31 Aug. Am. Bittern: rarely seen in Rock. One flying over Hackensack Cr. at West Nyack 9 July, five flying down the Bashakill 11 June (JS). Great Blue Heron: continues a fine comeback in Dutch. A survey of the new heronry in Washington Township found about 20 pairs on nests containing two to four well grown young each on 28 June. An adult was setting on a nest in a marsh near Ashokan on 5 June, but was not successful. Great Egret: an unusual record of a single bird spending the entire day of 25 July on a small suburban lawn in Upper Nyack. Allowed approach to a dozen feet, with no signs of illness. One was at Great Vly Swamp north of Saugerties 22 July, two at Travers Sw, Dutch 31 July, none at CB this year. Snowy Egret: three at CB 15 Aug. Little Blue Heron: two imm at Travers Sw. Dutch, 31 July (MVW, EP, HM). Mute Swan: nonbreeders inc to 40 at CB by end of period. Wood Duck: although no details are known, it appears that the more than 200 nesting boxes at Bashakill were largely occupied, and might have produced over 1,000 young (JT). No. Pintail: a few eclipse birds were at CB by 15 Aug. Blue-winged Teal: a few individuals reported up and down the Hudson from Sleightsburg to CB from 15 Aug. Gadwall: same status as previous two species. Hooded Merganser: RT reports a female with three young in a marsh near Ashokan 14 July. **COM. MERGANSER:** three at an inlet of Ashokan 6 June. First sign of young 1 July on Esopus Cr. near Ashokan. A female with eight young 15 July at Ashokan, and two females with 30 young there 30 July. Ruddy Duck: arr Tomahawk L. Oran 28 July (JT).

HAWKS-ALCIDS: Osprey: one CB 15 Aug. Another Abel's Pd, Dutch 25 July. Nest platforms provided in several locations were unused. Bald Eagle: one imm at Chappaqua 25 June, two adults summered at Rondout Res. from 14 July (RT), one flew low over

Millbrook 9 June. Sharp-shinned Hawk: at least a half-dozen reports from Dutch and the Catskills. Cooper's Hawk: a pair summered at Middletown Res, breeding not confirmed. Breeding was confirmed at Walden, Plattekill and Black Rock Forest, Cornwall, eggs and young in the nest obs at these locations. No. Goshawk: one passed Butler Sanct Hawk Watch 29 Aug. That early it might well have been a local resident. Dutch produced one at Pawling 27 July and another at Gardner Hollow 18 July, one at Salt Point 17 Aug. Red-shouldered Hawk: adult obs on nest at Ashokan 2 June, one young by 11 June, left nest by 9 July. Confirmed breeding with two fledglings at Moonbeams Sanct near Middletown (FWA). Ring-necked Pheasant: six young obs at Verbank 28 July, very few others reported. Ruffed Grouse: numbers up in Dutch, but normal to less elsewhere. Wild Turkey: many reports of young thru most of region. A hen obs feeding with 20 Canada Geese on the center mall of the Palisades Parkway near Queensboro L, Bear Mt. Park 7 July (ET). LLD report flocks obs at Black Meadow, Goosepond Pk, Warwick, Greenwood L and Monroe; all in Oran. No. Bobwhite: only report one at Millwood 16 June. **SANDHILL CRANE**: one at Reader's Digest Plant, Chappaqua 6 June, confirmed by BW. Black-bellied Plover: first two at Warren Sod Farm 5 Aug, max there four 29 Aug. Lesser Golden-Plover: first ten Warren Sod Farm 19 Aug, inc to max of 250 24 Aug. Solitary Sandpiper: obs at IBM plant in Kingston 16 July, inc to six by 20 July. An unusual 30 at Great Vly Swamp, Ulst 22 July (AB). Spotted Sandpiper: excellent numbers at CB, but no young ever obs there. Upland Sandpiper: all summer at Warren Sod Farm, max 50 by 19 Aug, reduced to six by end of period. **WHIMBREL**: one at Warren Sod Farm 25 Aug, remained for about a week in the company of golden plover. **BAIRD'S SANDPIPER**: three well obs at Warren Sod Farm at about 30 ft. for 3-4 minutes (JS). Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Warren Sod Farm 19 Aug. Single birds obs there almost daily thru end of period. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER**: first arr Warren Sod Farm 5 Aug., another there 11 Aug (JS). **CASPIAN TERN**: RT reports one at KP 14 July. Com. Tern: two at the West Hurley end of Ashokan 30 July. Least Tern: one adult and one imm at Croton Bay 15 Aug. (Vince McGrath).

PIGEONS-WOODPECKES: Ringed Turtle-Dove: one in "excellent fresh plumage" obs at the end of Piermont Pier eating mulberries with a flock of Mourning Doves 10 July (RD, Peter Derven, Bridget Coullon). Monk Parakeet: one Piermont Pier, 28 July (Bridget Coullon). Cuckoos: both species very scarce, only a few reports. E. Screech-Owl: reported very scarce in Ulst, normal elsewhere. Long-eared Owl: one calling thru June near P'kpsie (MK). Com. Nighthawk: very few reports, max about 50 over Pound Ridge 25 Aug., another 50 over Ashokan 26 Aug. Red-headed Woodpecker: nesting near Ashokan 14 June thru July.

FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: Olive-sided Flycatcher: two birds singing on territories 1½ miles apart at Denning, Ulst 22 July. E. Wood-Pewee: many fledglings reported in Dutch during July. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: three Aug. reports from Dutch. One 20-24 Aug. and two on 31 Aug. Acadian Flycatcher: very common along Peekamoose Rd. on 6 June. Acadian Flycatcher: confirmed breeder in Sterling Forest, and in three other blocks nearby, two at Pawling Nature Conservancy 11 July. Great Crested Flycatcher: nesting in a box at the home of FG in Clinton Corners, young gone by 8 July. No. Rough-winged Swallow: nesting next to Cliff Swallows in a gravel pit at Ashokan 9 July. Fish Crow: doing well in the Kingston area, more than 20 at EP in late Aug. Com. Raven: a pair flying close to Giant Ledge in the Catskills 13 June, one over High Pt. Mt. 1 Aug. Brown Creeper: usual nesters near Ashokan. Carolina Wren: obs with young in Sterling Forest. Winter Wren: singing male at Plattekill thru June, obs with two fledgling young at CB 25 May (BS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: atlassing has revealed more breeding pairs than ever before, nesting in at least five locations: Ashokan, Black Rock Forest, Black Meadow Preserve near Chester, Middletown Res. and Pawling. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: exc numbers at the beginning of the period; scarce toward the end. E. Bluebird: FG banded 150 nestlings during July in central Dutch. Swainson's Thrush: a singing bird on 26 June at Pawling was probably a late migrant. Hermit Thrush: singing males obs regularly in Harriman

State Pk, Sterling Forest, and the immediate environs above the 800' level, also heard on Schunemunk Mt. in June and July.

VIREOS-WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: found in at least eight blocks in S. Oran, always at upper elevations, much more common than expected. Philadelphia Vireo: first migrant 28 Aug. near Tamarack, Dutch. Another south of P'kpsie 31 Aug. Red-eyed Vireo: everyone reports their numbers down. "Lawrence's" Warbler: one 23 June at Siskowit Res, feeding young, another at Tamarack Pd, Putn 2 June. "Brewster's" Warbler: obs with food 27 June along the Esopus near Boiceville. Nashville Warbler: FM considers this species as showing the largest increase among warblers in Ulst, excellent numbers at the lower elevations around Ashokan and Kingston. One obs carrying food at Ashokan 18 June, obs nesting at Moonbeams Sanct, Middletown; and singing on Schunemunk Mt. 10 June. Magnolia Warbler: common along the Neversink R near Denning on 22 July, obs regularly in the Catskills by FM. Black-throated Blue Warbler: nesting near Pawling on 4 July. Black-throated Green Warbler: also nesting near Pawling and obs feeding young. Cerulean Warbler: obs near Pawling 11 July. Another was a surprising find at the south base of High Pt. in the Catskills on 16 June. A singing male captured an insect and flew with it to a high cottonwood, but no nest observed. **KENTUCKY WARBLER:** obs during second week of June at Pound Ridge Res. That same week three others were at Siskowit Res, two seemed to be paired. Hooded Warbler; breeding confirmed at Brinton Brook Sanct. Several nesting near Ashokan and a singing male near High Pt. Mt. 16 June, the latter at the 2000' level; another was at Pawling 18 June. Canada Warbler: two near Nuclear L, West Pawling were obs feeding young on 30 July. A male singing on Schunemunk during June was obs carrying food there the first week of July.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Scarlet Tanager: obs feeding young on 24 Aug. near Pawling, also feeding young on 28 Aug. near Tamarack, Dutch. Late! **BLUE GROSBEAK:** a pair carrying food in the same location where a male was found with several imm the summer before, just south of Warren Sod Farm near the New Jersey line; breeding confirmed (FWA). Grasshopper Sparrow: six to eight pairs obs near the Wallkill Prison during June and July. Henslow's Sparrow: only two pairs obs regularly at Galeville Airport where in recent years more than a dozen pairs were obs. White-throated Sparrow: obs at the 1,000' contour in Sterling Forest and Surebridge Swamp. The latter responded belligerently to a tape of its song. One in FG's yard at Clinton Corners, Dutch from 10 June thru month's end. Dark-eyed Junco: breeding at Fahnstock Pk 21 June, singing on Schunemunk Mt. at 1,400' level 15 July. One at Pond Gut 25 Aug. was too early for a migrant. E. Meadowlark: continues its decline. Only a few reports. Brown-headed Cowbird: an unusual report of a phoebe feeding a fledgling in Dutch during June. Orchard Oriole: mentioned on four reports. One pair at Pound Ridge 23 June. A pair nested in South Nyack for the second consecutive year; an imm was there begging for food and eating mulberries on 17 July. A first year male was singing at CB 4 June. Another pair built and abandoned a nest near Stanfordville, Dutch in June. Purple Finch: a male and female were at South Trinity Res, Pound Ridge 23 June. A male was singing on Bull Mine Mt. Oran 21 June and 17 July.

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, New York 10928

REGION 10 – MARINE

JOSEPH A. DiCOSTANZO

Looking at the average temperature and total rainfall for the whole season might lead to the conclusion that it was a fairly "average" summer, if it is possible

to call any season's weather "average." However, this would be somewhat misleading. June started out cold and rainy with showers lingering from late May's record rains. These quickly gave way to a heat wave from the 7th to the 13th with highs above 90° F. virtually every day. Temperatures then returned to close to normal for most of the rest of the month with little rain except on the 24th when about 1.5 inches fell. At the end of the month heavy rains on the 30th, over three inches, pushed the month's total to 5.76 inches, 2.53 above normal. The early June heat wave helped put the month's average at 74.5°, 3.1° above normal. July pretty much reversed the June pattern with temperatures below normal most of the month. The thermometer broke 90° only once, on the 14th, and then only by one degree. There was a bit more rain than in June and it was more evenly spread out thru the month. Once again there was a day of over three inches of rain, the 7th, pushing the month's total to 7.03 inches, 3.26 above normal. August changed the pattern yet again, turning dry with generally normal temperatures. A warm spell from the 14th to the 18th helped push the month's average to 76.7°, 1.8 above normal. The total August rainfall of 1.38 inches was 2.63 inches below normal, the first month since January to have below normal rainfall. (All weather data from New York City.)

The birding could safely be termed relatively quiet. There were few rarities and most of those few didn't linger long. In addition, there were no new additions to the list of breeding species in the Region as there have been in recent summers. Double-crested Cormorants added a second regional nesting locality, Laughing Gulls and Boat-tailed Grackles are apparently consolidating their New York State beachheads at Jamaica Bay, and Gull-billed Terns maintain a tiny, albeit unsuccessful, population on Long Island.

A glance at the names of contributors listed below will show the absence of two of Region 10's most active observers: Tom Davis and Gil Raynor. Tom, a former Region 10 editor and the editor of the New York City Rare Bird Alert, has been hospitalized since April as the result of an aneurysm. Gil, compiler of the Central Suffolk Christmas and Breeding Bird Counts and Region 10 Breeding Bird Atlas coordinator, has been in a coma since mid-summer as a result of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. This season's report, and the whole Region, is poorer because of their, hopefully temporary, absence. I know that birders throughout the Region and the State join me in wishing them well.

Rarities: Sandhill Crane, Wilson's Plover, Little Stint, Arctic Tern, Sooty Tern, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Abbreviations: LI-Long Island; SI-Staten Island; SP-State Park; JBWR-Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; mob-many observers.

Contributors and initialed observers: Robert Adamo, George Bouquio, Francine G. Buckley, Paul A. Buckley, Thomas W. Burke, Ralph Cioffi, Stephen B. Dempsey, Joe DiCostanzo, Fran File, William Kolodnicki, Brooke Lauro, Emanuel Levine, Robert O. Paxton, Arthur Morris, John J. Ruscica, Lore Schore, Walter Sedwitz, Barbara Spencer, Guy Tudor, Alvin Wollin.

LOONS-DUCKS: A summering Com. Loon was at Short Bch 17 July (SBD). A No. Fulmar was off Fire I. Inlet 3 July (C. Safina, R. Halbeisen). On a 20 Aug. pelagic trip to the edge of the continental shelf, 85 miles south of Montauk, birds were relatively scarce but it was interesting to note that from approx. 15 miles out Greater Shearwater was the only shearwater seen, but closer inshore, Cory's Shearwaters predominated (JD). Manx

Shearwaters are being found in increasing numbers on pelagic trips off LI (ROP); four were seen approx. 10-12 miles south of Montauk 20 Aug. (JD). A trip 25 miles south of Montauk on 1 July found an albinistic Wilson's Storm-Petrel with many other Wilson's around fishing trawlers (JD, J. Farrand, *et al.*). As reported in the Summer, 1984 issue of *The Kingbird*, the Region's second Double-crested Cormorant colony was discovered on South Brother I. in the East R. this June (PAB, FGB); Double-crested summured at Hempstead Lk SP, perhaps portending a possible third nesting location (SBD). A Great Egret was at VanCortlandt Pk. 8 July, where they are fairly uncommon (WS). A Tricolored Heron at Goethal's Bridge Pd., SI was thought to have perhaps bred on nearby Prall's I. (AM). Cattle Egrets are still relatively uncommon away from breeding colonies, so six flying over Oyster Bay beach 6 Aug. was a good local find (W. Paterson). Numbers of nesting Wood Ducks at VanCortlandt Pk were reported to be down from recent years (WS). A male Black Scoter summured off Great Kill's, SI (R. Clermont, *et al.*). An above normal number of summer reports of Red-breasted Mergansers perhaps indicated a good year for LI's small breeding population.

HAWKS-ALCIDS: The Osprey comeback on LI leveled off this year with a survey reporting 111 nests, the same as last year (M. Scheibel). Several Bald Eagles were reported: an imm. at JBWR 1-3 June (mob); three birds of unreported age at Aquebogue 2 June (A. Bisk) and one, possibly two, at Manorville 25 July (B. Conolly). A pair of Peregrine Falcons returned to the Throgs Neck Bridge to nest this summer and apparently fledged two young (*vide* TWB). One of the season's few rarities was a **SANDHILL CRANE** at Orient 14-27 July (P. Bernath, *vide* ROP). Lesser Golden-Plovers were widely reported in late Aug. with the max being 25 at a sod farm in Miller Place, LI 29 Aug. (RA). A **WILSON'S PLOVER** at Great Kills, SI 7 June was a second county record (A. Morris), the first being at the same location in May, 1978. Am. Oystercatchers continue to increase on LI: in 1974 surveys discovered 36 pairs on LI, this summer 60 pairs were found in Great South Bay just in the stretch between the Wantagh Causeway and the Robert Moses Bridge (BL). Other evidence of the oystercatchers' increase are the following counts: 50-60 birds throughout Aug. at JBWR where a few years ago it was a treat to find one or two; and 150 at the Line I. 29 July. An Am. Avocet at Oyster Pd., Montauk 16 June is a rare regional spring record (BS); another individual, also early, but attributable to the fall migration, was at Middle Line I. 14 July (*vide* TWB). Upland Sandpipers turned up at two unexpected locations: the VanCortlandt Pk. parade grounds 18 Aug. (WS) and JBWR 29 July and 11 Aug. The peak count of Whimbrel reported was 15 at JBWR 21 July. Six Hudsonian Godwits at the Line I. 14 July increased to 13 there 8 Aug.; one to three birds were at JBWR from 21 July thru late-Aug. A rare spring Marbled Godwit was found at North Line I. 10 June (BL). New York State's second **LITTLE STINT** was found at JBWR 5 June, in a similar plumage to the bird found there last July (PAB). White-rumped Sandpipers were at JBWR and Jones Bch 27-28 June (mob). The first fall Baird's Sandpiper reported was one at JBWR 16 Aug. (RA). A Curlew Sandpiper was at JBWR 3-5 June (R. ZainEldeen, TWB), and one or more were there from 19 July to mid-Aug. (mob). The max of Stilt Sandpiper reported was 32 at Jones Bch (PAB). Long-billed Dowitcher arrived at JBWR 21 July. A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes apparently summured at Jones Bch (AW); three were at JBWR 23-24 June and others were reported from various locations in the Region in July and Aug. with a max of seven at the East Pd., JBWR 29 Aug. (SBD). A female No. Phalarope was at JBWR 3 June and one to two birds were there mid to late Aug. (mob). The breeding Laughing Gulls in the eastern end of Jamaica Bay continue to increase, reaching 2,800 pairs this summer (PAB, FGB). A Bonaparte's Gull was at Great Kills, SI 28 Aug. (GB). A Glaucous Gull at Gardiner's I. 13 June was a rare summer find (PAB). Two pairs of Gull-billed Terns attempted to nest, unsuccessfully, along the south shore of LI (J. Zarudsky, *et al.*). Two Caspian Terns and six Royal Terns were at Mecox Bay 24 Aug. (JJR); four Royals were at Mecox 13 June (PAB). Roseate and Common Terns continue to do well on Great Gull I. with 700-800 and 4,700-4,800 pairs, respectively (JD); the Cedar Bch colony also did well with nearly 6,000 pairs of Commons and 80-100 pairs of Roseates (M. Gochfeld, *vide* ROP).

An **ARCTIC TERN** was at the Sore Thumb, Jones Bch 7-9 June (PAB, A. J. Lauro) and an amazing five were at Shinnecock 13 June (PAB). A census of the LI population of Least Terns found 4,490 adults this summer (D. Peterson, *fide* ROP). And adult **SOOTY TERN** standing on a float 14 miles s.e. of Montauk 26 June was perhaps a result of the stormy weather on the 24th with its south winds (M. Male). Three pairs of Black Skimmers attempting to nest on Great Gull I. was a first there; unfortunately, only one pair laid a full clutch and they soon abandoned it (JD); probably just as well since there are no good feeding areas for skimmers closer than Gardiner's I, five miles to the south.

PIGEONS-WOODPECKERS: Many observers reported that numbers of both cuckoo species seemed to be low. A Com. Nighthawk seen during the summer in lower Manhattan in the vicinity of 17th St. and Irving Place may have been nesting on the roof of a nearby building. Chuck-will's-widows continue to nest along the eastern sections of the Jones Bch strip and at their other recent LI locations. Nesting Chimney Swifts were thought to be down in numbers in Riverdale (WS). Belted Kingfisher may have bred in VanCortlandt Pk this summer after an absence of several years (WS).

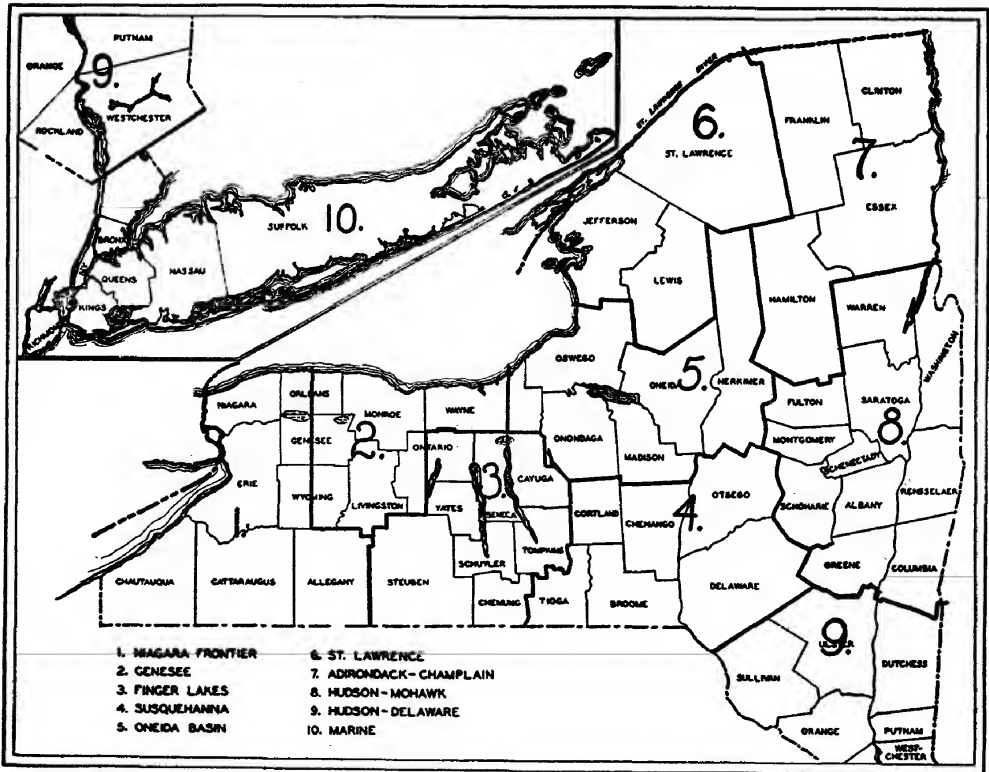
FLYCATCHERS-STARLINGS: As usual the spring flight of flycatchers extended into early June. The period 3-5 June produced reports of numbers of virtually every eastern flycatcher throughout the Region, just a sample: Olive-sided - two, Forest Pk 3 June; E. Wood-Pewee - seven, East Bath House, Jones Bch 5 June (SBD); Yellow-bellied - singing male, Riverdale 4 June (WS); Acadian - Belmont Pk and Forest Pk 3 June; Alder - singing male, JBWR 3 June; Willow - singing male, Jones Bch 5 June (SBD); Great Crested Flycatcher and two E. Kingbirds - East Bath House, Jones Bch 5 June (SBD). A Great Crested Flycatcher nesting in Inwood Pk, northern Manhattan was new to the area while in nearby VanCortlandt Pk E. Kingbirds were found to have very reduced numbers (WS). Two Cliff Swallows with 15 Barns at Heyerdahl's Hill, SI was considered a good find for the location (GB). A pair of Hermit Thrushes bred at the Quogue Wildlife Refuge this summer (E. Salzman).

VIREOS-WARBLEDERS: Yellow-throated Vireo is unknown as a breeder on SI; in fact it is a very rare breeder anywhere in the Region, so a bird found at Buck's Hollow during the height of the breeding season on 9 July (AM) makes one wonder, particularly considering the various breeding records that have come from SI in recent years. Only one pair of Warbling Vireos was reported nesting in VanCortlandt Pk this summer (WS); a singing male was at Cow Neck, LI 23 June (JJR). Yellow Warblers were also reported down in VanCortlandt Pk (WS). A late spring migrant Prothonotary Warbler was at JBWR 3 June. A migrant Mourning Warbler was at Shu Swamp, Mill Neck 2 June (BS) and four were found at Forest Pk the next day (GT). A Yellow-breasted Chat was at Connetquot R. SP 9 June for the Captree Breeding Bird Count.

TANAGERS-WEAVERS: Two Summer Tanagers, undoubtedly late migrants, were reported; Forest Pk 3 June (GT) and JBWR 18 June (D. Riepe). A single observer was able to find only six Sharp-tailed Sparrows and no Seaside Sparrows in an hour and a half of searching in the Tobay marshes 30 June (SBD); has anyone else found these two species to be low? A very lost, and probably lonely, White-throated Sparrow was singing in a backyard in Hempstead 13-14 July (EL). A **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** was seen and photographed with Com. Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds on Jones Bch 27 June-5 July (AW). Boat-tailed Grackles apparently continue to breed at JBWR with a number of sightings of birds, including a female with a juv. 29 July (TWB). A first year male Orchard Oriole was seen at Southard's Pd, Babylon 3 June in an area where the species has been known to nest in the past (J. Viglietta); a pair were seen building a nest in Mill Neck 14 June (BS).

Great Gull Island Project, A.M.N.H.,
Central Park West at 79th St., New York, New York 10024

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

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Deadline is March 7

Spring Season: March, April, May
Deadline is June 7

Summer Season: June, July, August
Deadline is September 7

Fall Season: September, October, November
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